

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL LGBTQ+ LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

PICK ME UP
I'm FREE

MIDLANDS

ZONE

JUNE 2019 ISSUE 266



PHOTO SPECIAL EDITION



**GAY SCENE
IN PICTURES
+ WHAT'S ON**

**Charlotte
The Harlotte
bids farewell
to Brum's
Gay Village**

STONEWALL RIOTS
50th ANNIVERSARY

FEATURE INSIDE

Partied hard?


Need a sexual health
check up?



Sexual Health Services at Birmingham LGBT.
Open 7 days a week for testing & support.

www.blgbt.org/sexual-health
Tel: 0121 643 0821



Supported by  umbrella

Get tested from home for STIs including HIV.
Order your free kit now: umbrellahealth.co.uk/testing

What's inside:

JUNE 2019

47



8



43



12



15



34



27



32



ALSO INSIDE:

Save The Gay Village **7** Steve Ball column **14**

Coventry Pride **27** Men's Sexual Health **36**

Competitions **41** Theatre & Arts **42**

Now & 10 Years Ago **44** Scene Diary **46**

Venue Map **50**

Get connected...

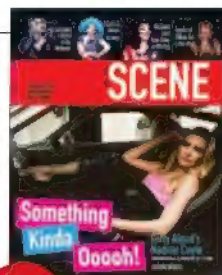


@midlandszone



@midlandszone

www.midlandszone.co.uk



45

**NEW SCENE
GUIDE!**

Birmingham date for acclaimed LGBT author

Tales Of The City author and **LGBT activist Armistead Maupin** has announced his **first-ever UK tour**.

The American storyteller will recount 'tales from four decades' alongside 'engaging observations on society and the world we inhabit' when he stops off at Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday 2 October.



Best known for his ground-breaking *Tales Of The City* books, Armistead has been at the forefront of popular culture since the 1970s. His 1992 novel, *Maybe The Moon* - following the serio-comic adventures of a dwarf actress working in Hollywood - was named as one of the 10 best books of the year by *Entertainment Weekly*.

The bestselling author is also the subject of a new documentary, *Untold Tales Of Armistead Maupin*.

BBC TV's hit LESBIAN drama to return for a second series

Lesbian period drama *Gentleman Jack* has been commissioned for a second series. The critically acclaimed BBC TV show, which features *Doctor Foster* star Suranne Jones, tells the story of the 'first modern lesbian' - Regency-era landowner Anne Lister - and is currently being screened on Sunday nights. The series has been created by *Happy Valley* and *Last Tango In Halifax* writer Sally Wainwright, using Lister's own diaries as the inspiration for her screenplays.



Gender blending in Birmingham

An exhibition chronicling Birmingham's gender-blending culture will be on display at the city's LGBT Centre throughout the summer.

Birmingham-born photographer Nick Hynan aims to show that drag and cross-dressing is a 'living and evolving tradition', and that today's generation of drag kings and queens

have developed a range of styles which allow them to challenge with increasing confidence society's attitudes to gender and sexuality.

An ongoing project since 2014, *Gender Blending 2019* includes new images being exhibited for the very first time.

Birmingham's LGBT Centre is located at the city's Holloway Head. Admission to Nick's exhibition is free.

EastEnders to feature its first ever GAY BAR

EastEnders is set to get its first ever gay bar. The show's longstanding character, Kathy Beale, who recently revealed her plans to open the new venue, will turn for advice to her gay son, Ben, and lesbian character Tina Carter. The storyline-reveal follows recent news that *EastEnders* will also feature its first Pride parade this summer. We can't wait...



Have ya heard?



BIGGEST EVER Birmingham Pride Parade

Birmingham Pride this year made history! Its Parade featured over 5,000 participants and was supported by more than 100,000 people - the biggest ever number of spectators to line the streets of Birmingham for the event.

The Birmingham Pride Parade was this year endorsing No Outsiders - a programme of relationship lessons taught in primary schools - which has been at the centre of controversy due to protests by a small number of Muslim activists. The parade was led by Andrew Moffat, the creator of No Outsiders, together with two LGBT Muslims - Saima Razzaq and Khakan Qureshi - who also support the initiative.

Lawrence Barton, Festival Director, who walked at the front in solidarity with Andrew, Saima and Khakan, commented: "The parade conveyed an extremely powerful message. It was a very emotional experience seeing so many from the LGBTQ and Muslim communities coming together in support of No Outsiders."



Leading the Birmingham Pride Parade: Khakan Qureshi, Saima Razzaq and the creator of No Outsiders, Andrew Moffat

It's official! Birmingham Pride is the UK's best!

Birmingham Pride has been named the 21st best Pride event in the world, in a special HomeToGo guide to the 50 greatest Pride events.

After researching hundreds of cities around the globe, HomeToGo selected a final shortlist of 50 locations that offer travellers the following: a growing Pride festival, vibrant LGBTQ+ nightlife, LGBTQ+ friendly laws, excellent travel connections and affordable accommodation.

Commenting on the success, Birmingham Pride Festival Director Lawrence

Barton said: "This is fabulous news and is brilliant recognition for all the hard work put in by everybody across the years to make our city's Pride event such a stand-out attraction.

"To come out top of the UK's brilliant collection of Pride events is a humbling experience. It makes all of us all the more determined to make Birmingham Pride an even more fantastic event in the future."

The HomeToGo list saw Brazil's Sao Paulo come out on top. UK Pride events rankings in the World's Top 50 list were as follows:

1. Birmingham (ranked 21)
2. Manchester (ranked 22)
3. Glasgow (ranked 24)
4. Bristol (ranked 28)
5. Belfast (ranked 43)
6. London (ranked 44)
7. Brighton (ranked 47)



Continue The Journey

They fought for our equality.
Don't let them drift into the background.
Celebrate our over 50s and continue
what they started.

Find out how at ageingwithpride.co.uk

  @ageingwithpride



Contact us:
0121 643 0821
info@ageingwithpride.co.uk



**SAVE
BIRMINGHAM
GAY VILLAGE
CAMPAIGN**



Eden owners Garry and Cal under threat

We need your support NOW as development plans around Eden Bar are unveiled

A new planning draft has been released which shows Birmingham gay village venue Eden Bar surrounded by new apartments.

The plans are part of the Rea Valley Urban Quarter Masterplan, which will see a series of mixed-use neighbourhoods, accommodating over 5,000 new homes, being created. The scheme has not yet been approved, and the city council is seeking consultation with the general public over the next few weeks.

Eden's owners, Garry Prentice and Cal Eden, are concerned that new developments to either side and the rear of the venue would bring complaints from

residents about noise levels. This could then lead to the popular bar not having its lease renewed.

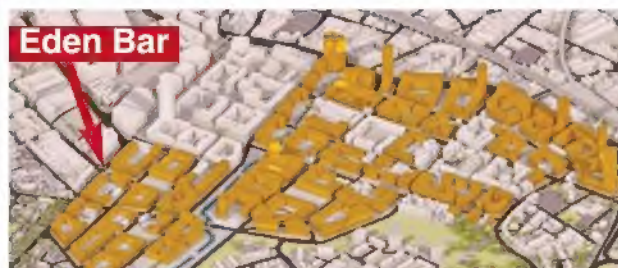
Eden is one of Birmingham gay village's busiest and most popular bars.

Calling for support from the LGBT community and speaking about the threat, Garry Prentice said: "The gay village is very important to a lot of people - it's a safe place where they can be themselves without looking over their shoulder, and Eden is a vital part of it.

"We need everyone to urgently lodge their concerns within the consultation period, which closes on 12 July, and help us try and protect Eden within this development."

To submit your views, go to:

www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/rea-valley-spd/consultation/intro/



Ta-ra

Babs!

After 12 years of working the drag circuit, one of Birmingham's much-loved drag queens, Charlotte the Harlotte, is hanging up her wig and moving on to pastures new.

Midlands Zone caught up with Derrick, the man behind the lipstick and high heels, to find out what he has planned for the future...

When did you start doing drag, Derrick, and what prompted you to give it a go?

I started in 2007. I saw Miss Marty in the original Glamorous and I was blown away. I met him out of drag after his show, and I didn't recognise him until I saw the claws! Then, one day, he invited me to go out with him to a gig that he was doing at The White Swan, which is now Eden, and to glam-up as well. He did my makeup and dressed me up. I felt funny but thought, let's try it for one night only and see what it's all about. I loved it, and that led to me creating the monster you all know today!

Who are your drag role models?

Miss Marty, Miss Penny and Veurvette mainly, but Twiggy, Divine Miss M, Dec and Dave. All my friends and family, old and new, have helped me as well.

How and when did you first come out as gay, and how accepting were your parents, family and friends?

I came out to my mother when I was 13. She said she sort of already knew, as I used to dress up in her and my sister's clothes. I loved to hang around with girls more than guys. My dad took a little longer to get used to the idea, but they were all accepting about me being gay and loved me no matter what.

Do they all know that you do drag? And for those who do, what's been their reaction?

Not going to lie, I went through a phase where I actually wanted a sex change, but didn't do the dress up part etc. This was a short phase. Then, when I started doing drag, my mother loved it, and my dad, who's a joker, just kept calling me a 'fairy' in his deep Scottish accent. My mum, dad, sister and niece have all seen me in drag, but only my mum & dad have seen

me perform live and mime at The Village in Birmingham. My mother got all emotional and loved it. She loves Birmingham and my Birmingham family.

How did the opportunity to be one of the Village Inn's drag hosts come about?

Well, I started at The Village as a barman. I needed some extra cash and Keith and Frank gave me a job. They knew I'd done drag a bit, and Keith was working at The Loft as well. One night he asked me to cover his Wednesday slot. It was very busy and he came down from The Loft with the crew. He took the microphone off me and said to the audience, "Are you having a good time? Do you all like Charlotte?" They screamed 'yes!' and he said, "Well, you're going to see a lot more of Charlotte at The Village!" It took off from there. I gained five nights a week - Tuesday with Miss Marty, Wednesdays with Miss Penny - before it became my own night. I did Thursdays with Auntie Tilly, Fridays with the outside acts and Saturdays - well, you know what happens on a Saturday - Madness with all the sexual customers!

How long have you been performing at the venue, and what's been your highlight?

I started in Route as a door whore with Timmona Hooker. My sister worked there for about a year, then got a job in Missing when Eric and Cliff had it. I worked alongside Linda La Whore on a Tuesday. Ian Dukes was manager and Craig was the bar wench, but I've officially been at The Village for 10 years now. I have a few highlights, to be honest, but one that I will never forget was my birthday when David Morris was manager. It was a Wednesday night. I was due to catch the train home to Scotland next day and said I wouldn't be getting

drunk. Then Miss Marty and Miss Penny started their shows. Miss Penny got me up on stage and sang Eartha Kitt's Champagne Taste whilst feeding me a whole bottle! I woke up in the dressing room and walked downstairs thinking that people would still be there, but the place was closed and there wasn't anyone in sight! I triggered the alarm and the police came out. David Morris came out to reset the alarm and had to let me out. I've never apologised so much in my life - you had to be there... I then had to run home to get my suitcase to go and get my train, which I missed. I then had to pay £125 to get to see my parents!

What's prompted your decision to hang up your wig and stop performing?

I'm not gonna lie, I miss Derrick. Charlotte is like a mask that I hide behind to boost my confidence. I'm not a confident person as Derrick, as a lot of people will know. To be honest, as much as I will miss it, I'm fed up with it and want my life back. I love doing Charlotte and working at The Village, but it's time to focus on my 'Derrick life' and get back to the Derrick that I was before the drag - although a slightly older version now!

As a drag artist, have you found it difficult finding that special someone?

What a question to ask me! Yes! I mean, I've had boyfriends and been engaged to somebody who I thought was 'the one', but we've been apart now for four years - I won't go into it. It's hard for drag queens to find partners because guys want the man or they want the woman. A lot of straight guys want me dressed up to be with me, and I'm always being told I'm better-looking in drag and not the best looking out of drag. It's a fetish - tranny shaggers.

What's next for you?

It's time to focus on my career at Hush Hair & Beauty. Hopefully I will meet Mr Right. The world is my cyster - who knows what's in store for me?...

Do you think you'll ever return to drag in the future?

I might do one-offs, but for now Charlotte The Harlotte is done! I would like to give a special shout out to my family and friends, who've helped me throughout the years. I thank you all from the bottom of my swinging brick of a heart. I love you all, past and present. Queefa for president and Andy King for prime minister. Over and out, motherfuckers! Stay sexual, stay safe. xxxxx

Charlotte the Harlotte's leaving party takes place at The Village Inn, Birmingham, on Wednesday 5 June

A full-body photograph of a drag queen, Charlotte the Harlotte, posing against a plain white background. She is wearing a long, shimmering, lime-green sequined dress with a high slit on the left side. Her hair is a voluminous, dark brown feathered wig that fans out behind her head. She has blonde hair peeking out from the wig, heavy black eye makeup, and bright red lipstick. She is wearing matching lime-green high-heeled sandals. Her right hand is raised with fingers spread, and her left hand is on her hip. A large, stylized text overlay in green and yellow reads "Charlotte the Harlotte".

**Charlotte
the Harlotte**

STONEWALL

Fifty years on from the Stonewall Riots, Midlands Zone takes a look at the events leading up to 28 June 1969 - a 'moment in history' that signposted the route to equality for the LGBTQ community across the western world...

The Stonewall Inn

On 18 March 1967, the Stonewall Inn - a bar for queers, albeit illegal, opened on Christopher Street in the Greenwich Village area of New York City. Opened by local man Tony 'Fat Tony' Lauria, and with initial backing from the 'Mafiosa', Stonewall was without a liquor licence but attracted Manhattan's gay & lesbian fraternity with its dance policy and two dancefloors. The Inn was a cheap place to visit and in particular attracted gay men migrating from small towns to the 'freer, bigger, gayier cities'.

The venue was not safe or hygienic. There were two packed dancefloors but no fire escapes. Drinks were watered down and there was no running water behind the bar. Every night before opening time, two sinks and a rubber tub were filled up with water, which glasses were rinsed in before being refilled. The fetid water was emptied into the overflowing toilets, meaning the floor was often wet. An outbreak of hepatitis was linked to the venue.



The summer of '69

By the summer of 1969, the police were becoming more intolerant of the Stonewall Inn. They were unhappy that the Mafia controlled the bar and that drugs were being sold and taken there. Also, significant numbers of men at that time, including high-profile Wall Street workers, were being blackmailed, threatened with being outed at work and losing their livelihoods. It seemed the time was primed for change.



Tension leading to the Stonewall Riots

There was a real sense of unrest both in America and across the world in the lead up to the Stonewall Riots of 1969. Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968 paved the way for riots across America. Bobby Kennedy too was assassinated, and huge riots broke out amongst students in France and Mexico City.

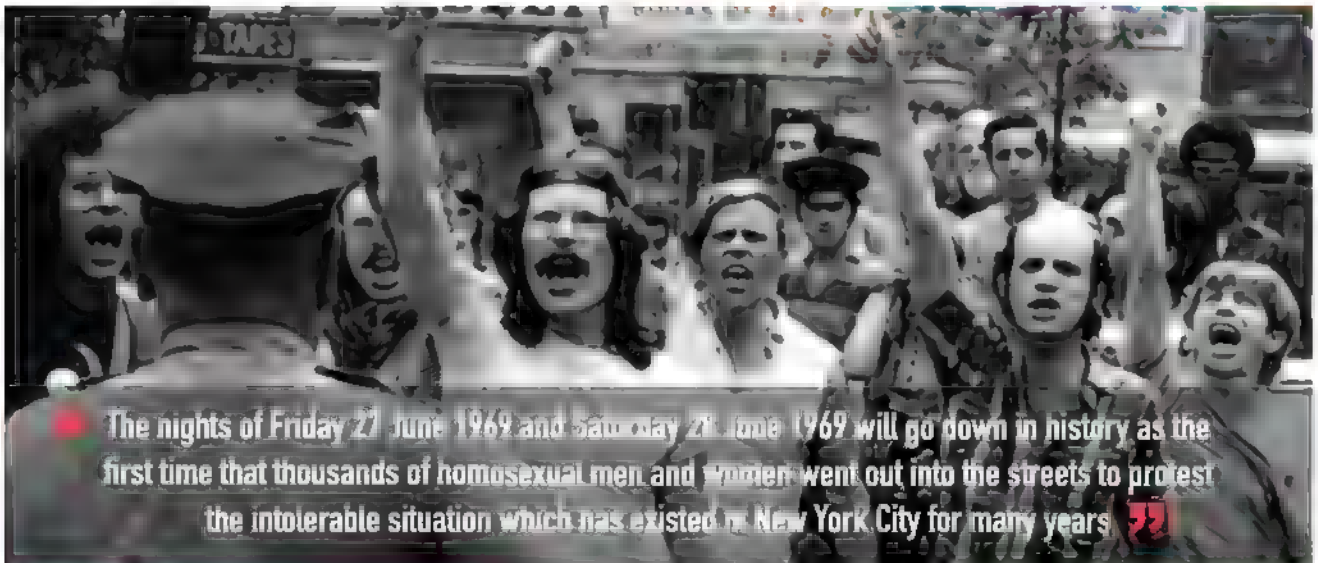
The feeling in the air around the world among young and disenfranchised people was that the politics of politeness was dying. More and more energised gay people felt that the LGBTQ rights movement was too gentle - almost apologetic - and that the movement needed to adopt the angry tactics of other groups.



RIOTS

1969-2019

50th ANNIVERSARY



The nights of Friday 27 June 1969 and Saturday 28 June 1969 will go down in history as the first time that thousands of homosexual men and women went out into the streets to protest the intolerable situation which has existed in New York City for many years

Night of the riots

In the early hours of 28 June 1969, local police raided the Stonewall Inn to acquire evidence of liquor being sold, drugs being traded, and of men dressed as women and women dressed as men.

As the police entered, the usual procedures were followed. The lights were turned on, music stopped. Tills were emptied. Couples separated. Disappointment, frustration and nervousness rippled through the crowd.

Unusually there was some resistance, but the raid continued. Lesbians were roughly frisked and they too complained. Pieces of furniture were smashed.

People perceived to be transvestite were usually held in the toilets, but this time many physically resisted, saying, "Get your hands off me!" and "Don't touch me!" It was this, Deputy Inspector Pine said years later, that made him decide to arrest more people than planned.

Above text is from the Homophile Youth Movement In Neighborhoods flyers printed by Craig Rodwell and his partner, Fred Sargeant.



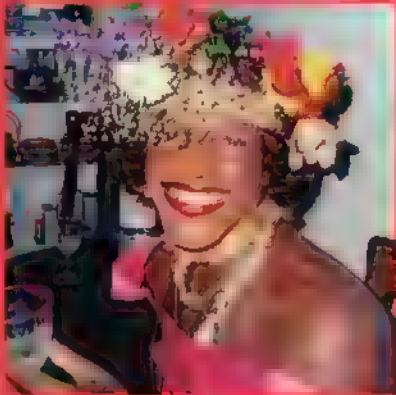
At first buoyed by adrenaline, the crowd were in good spirits, joking and chatting, camping it up, perhaps even enjoying the drama. As more individuals were allowed out, cheers went up, and some of those leaving performed to the crowd. More police vans arrived, and those arrested started to be loaded into them. A low chant of 'we will overcome' broke out.

Gay power

Local gay journalist Craig Rodwell yelled, "Gay power!" and was hushed by his friend, but others repeated the cry.

Then, one of the police officers pushed a trans woman. Some say it was performer Tammy Novak who gave him a warning, buoyed on by her friend, Sylvia Rivera. When she was shoved again, Novak hit him with her handbag. In return, he hit her around the head with his baton. Boos rippled through the crowd. A man in a dark red T-shirt, believed to be a local Puerto Rican, shouted, "Nobody's going to fuck around with me. I ain't going to take this shit!"

Key figures in the Stonewall



Sir Ian McKellen

McKellen is a prominent figure in the LGBTQ+ community, known for his role as Gandalf in the Lord of the Rings series. He has been a vocal advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and has supported Stonewall's mission.



Lord Michael Cashman

Cashman is a prominent figure in the LGBTQ+ community, known for his role as the Mayor of Cardiff. He has been a vocal advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and has supported Stonewall's mission.



Lisa Power

Power is a prominent figure in the LGBTQ+ community, known for her role as a politician. She has been a vocal advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and has supported Stonewall's mission.



First official Gay Pride in 1972

On 1 July 1972 - the nearest Saturday to the third anniversary of the Stonewall Riots - the UK's first official Gay Pride was held in London. Around 700 people marched from Trafalgar Square to Hyde Park, the event ending with a picnic in the park.

The march signalled a tentative new optimism and openness around LGBTQ life. The first gay newspaper, Gay News, was launched that same year.

Stonewall today

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Stonewall - Britain's leading charity for lesbian, gay, bi & trans equality.

Sir Ian McKellen, Lord Michael Cashman, Lisa Power and 11 other founders set up Stonewall in 1989 with the specific aim of stopping Section 28.

Stonewall continues to work to ensure that LGBT equality is a living reality across all sectors of society.



Riots



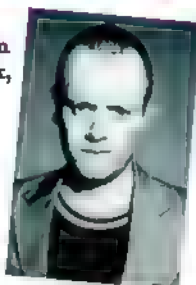
Sylvia Rivera

Extracts for this article are taken from Matthew Todd's book, **PRIDE: The Story Of The LGBTQ Equality Movement**, which is available in hardback for £30 from carltonbooks.co.uk

Essential reading:



Extracts for this article are taken from Matthew Todd's book, **PRIDE: The Story Of The LGBTQ Equality Movement**, which is available in hardback for £30 from carltonbooks.co.uk



CAT'S CORNER

by Gudrun

The FREEDOM to be...

I'm no historian, but it seems to me that there must have been a period of time when human beings had unlimited freedoms. We must have evolved, crawled out of our caves and started using basic tools to kill bears, cut up potatoes, comb our hair, and focus on all the basic stuff like foraging for food and working out that wheels should be round. At that time, I like to believe that, as human beings, we all got on with the business of living, and kept clear of the politics of each of us deciding what other people should or should not be doing

I hope that, in those early days, we didn't make determinations about who was different in appearance and who had the right to do what to whom

Then, of course, in my simplistic view of the development of the human community, we started deciding who were the leaders and who were there to be led, and we invented religion to control our behaviour and shape our framework of what is right and what is wrong

We developed laws to ensure that those who did wrong were suitably punished, and promoted poverty to encourage the masses to do the bidding of the privileged, so that the privileged and wealthy could retain their privilege and their power to keep poor people poor and malleable. After centuries of this, we invented Queen Victoria to reign over the most moralistic and judgmental era of our time

So, these freedoms I imagine that we had as troglodyte hunters & gatherers were eroded as we formulated the whole idea of civilisation. We (those of us without power) were contained and controlled, divided and ruled, and it was our differences that were frequently quashed, crushed and punished.

It is only in very recent decades that we have been fighting to regain these

freedoms; freedoms which have been eroded to nothing. The ending of worldwide institutionalised slavery was a step forward - perhaps the first major freedom to be won back. But many others have, of course, followed.

"The Stonewall riots 50 years ago are considered a major first marker-point in this fight"

Freedoms for people of different cultures, heritage, gender, (dis)ability and so on. We are chipping away. These fights have been very different for different groups of people in different countries. The pace of change has been in fits and starts. Some journeys have

all been going forwards, others have gone backwards, sometimes ending up far further back than the starting position. Some fights still only consist of hope, others have new legal frameworks to support the freedom of individuals and groups

STONEWALL RIOTS

One of the most positive moves towards freedom has been the gay rights movement in Europe and the United States. The Stonewall riots 50 years ago are considered a major first marker-point in this fight - although it's also fair to say that the Stonewall rioters were themselves standing on the shoulders of many brave individuals before them.

It has been 50 years of many changes. Many backward steps, many pushes forward. In many countries there are laws, institutions and, crucially, public support to protect the freedoms of gay people to be gay.

These freedoms haven't developed because, as a society, we have become more civilised; they have developed despite our progression towards civilisation. Freedoms have had to be clawed back slowly and painstakingly. And we are privileged to have them, as many countries are still busily ensuring that gay people are persecuted and, presumably, eradicated.

"we invented religion to control our behaviour"

Hope for Tomorrow

ON THE BALL
with Steve Ball



Three remarkable individuals providing inspiration and hope to us all...

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Led by a group of New York drag queens, the riots began the liberation of LGBT people.

There's still homophobia in our own country, and persecution of LGBT people continues across the world. But our community has made huge advances and we have lots to celebrate

In recent weeks, three people have, in the face of adversity and tragedy, shown not only how far the LGBT community has moved, but also the extent to which large sections of mainstream society have caught up.

First, there's Pete Buttigieg, who, at the age of 37, has become the first openly gay person to make a serious bid to be President of the United States. He's emerged from near-obscure as the mayor of small town Small Bend to become a Democratic front runner, behind only Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders, both of whom are more than twice his age.

Mayor Pete speaks eight languages, including Norwegian and Arabic, is a war veteran and is married to a man who he's not afraid to publicly kiss at his election rallies. There are some in the conservative south who are concerned by his sexuality - one faked child sex allegations against him - but most Americans don't seem to bat an eyelid at a gay man running for president.

Pete Buttigieg isn't the only LGBT person

seeking to provide hope. Alongside the tragedy of the murder of 29 year-old Northern Irish journalist and author Lyra McKee, her message of hope shone loud and clear.

Lyra had written and spoken powerfully about the impact of the homophobia that was part of her Catholic upbringing. In an open letter to her teenage self, she described pleading with God for help when she realised she was a lesbian. She wanted to change religious teaching about sexuality and help other young people. In death, she has become a symbol of the new Northern Ireland - non-sectarian, radical, egalitarian, open, and Liberal. Her service was conducted by an Anglican and a Catholic priest to a congregation of hundreds, none of whom were concerned by her out-and-proud sexuality, all of whom were moved by the passing of a bright young woman with her life in front of her

The third person to have inspired me isn't gay. Ibrahim Mogra was last month interviewed on BBC Two's Newsnight about the No Outsiders controversy affecting a handful of Birmingham primary schools. It was the usual Newsnight format, with two guests pitted against each other in often acrimonious debate. So when I saw that gay Labour MP Wes Streeting was one of the guests, and that the other was attired in traditional Islamic dress, my stereotypical assumptions got the better of me and I braced myself for another tirade against 'homosexual lifestyles'. But I have rarely been so happy to be proved wrong.

Ibrahim Mogra, an imam from a Leicester mosque, criticised the actions of the protesting parents, reminded us that the law provides us all with equal protection, and said that "if a child is being brought to school by two mummies or two daddies, it's important that the other children know about this in order to reduce bullying and discrimination."

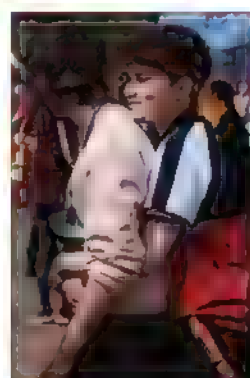
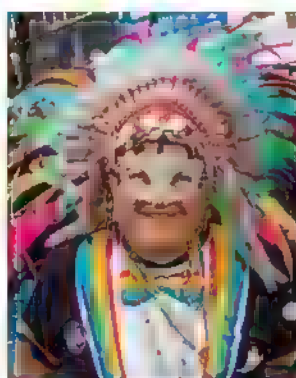
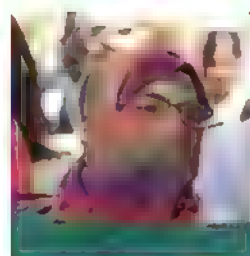
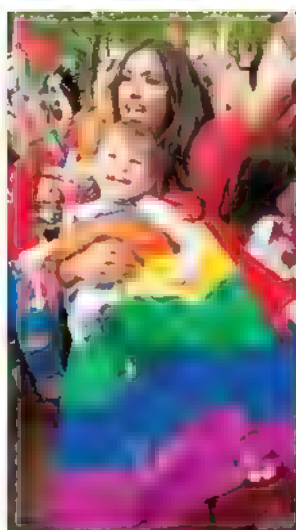
These three remarkable individuals have one thing in common - they provide inspiration and hope to us all, something which has been in short supply in our increasingly divided society.

As Albert Einstein said: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow"



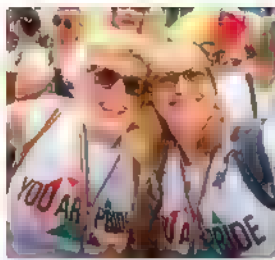


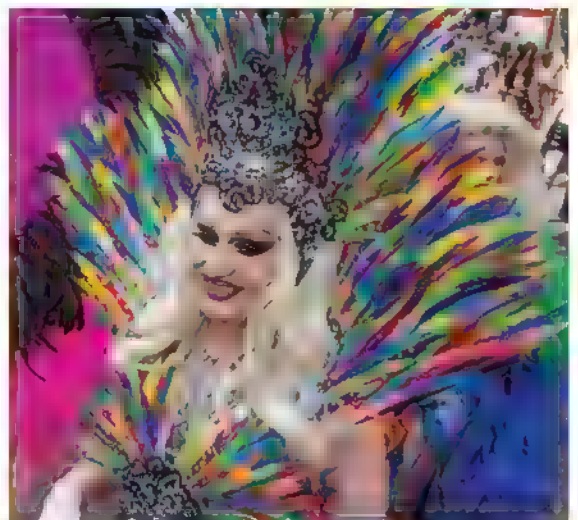
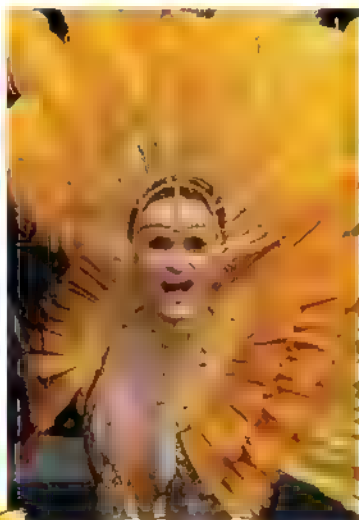
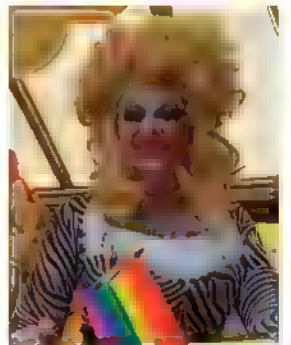
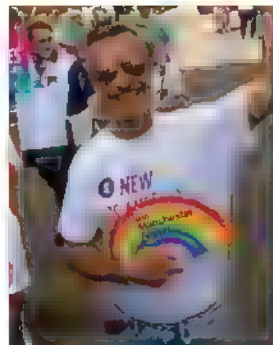
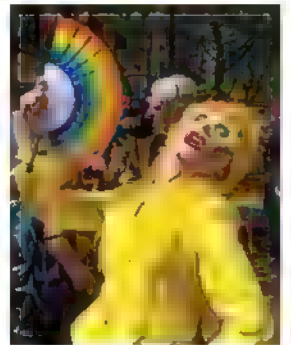
12 PAGE BIRMINGHAM PRIDE PICTURE SPECIAL

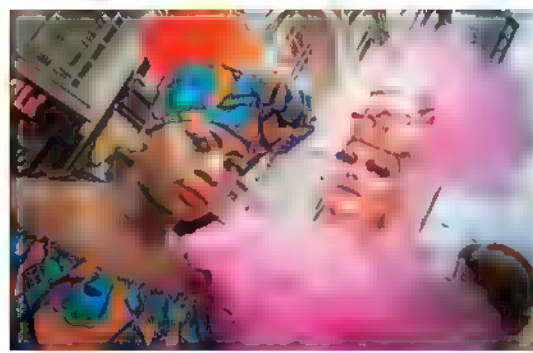
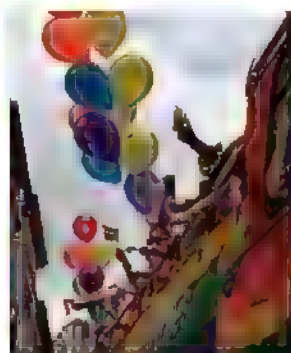
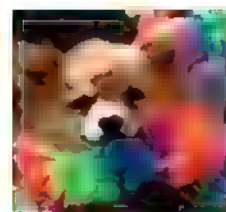
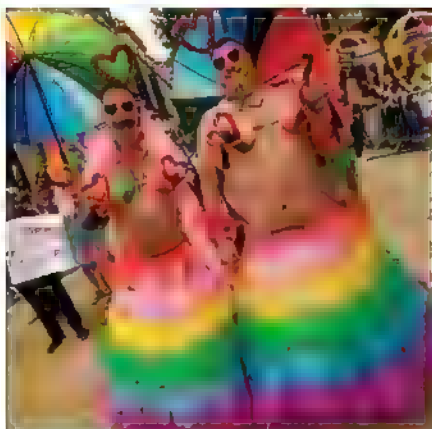
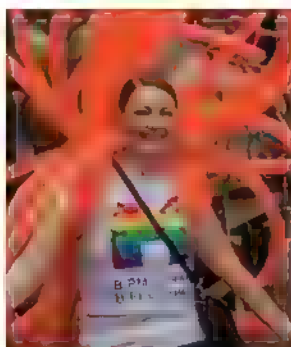


PICTURE SPECIAL

By [illegible]

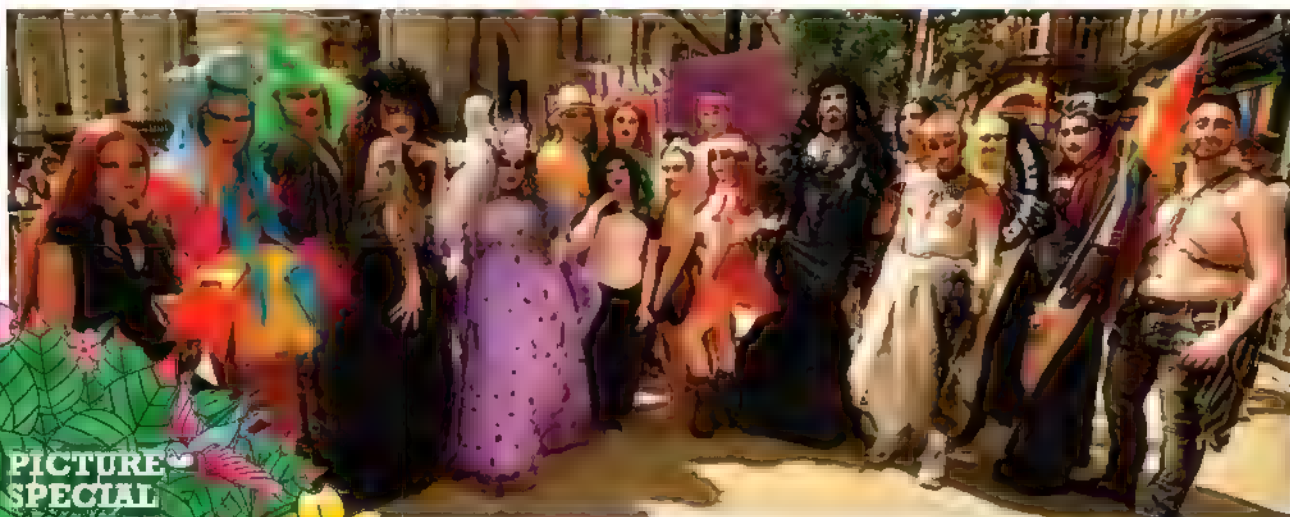
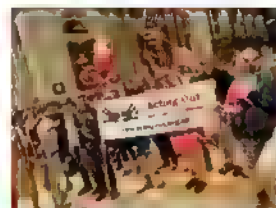
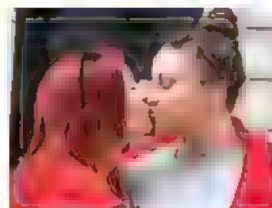
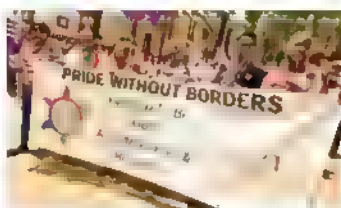
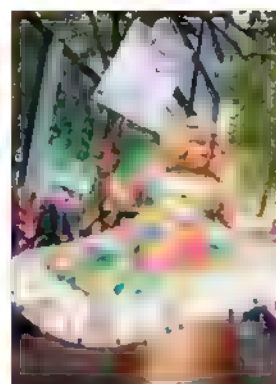
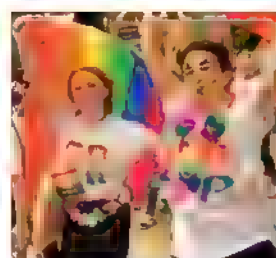
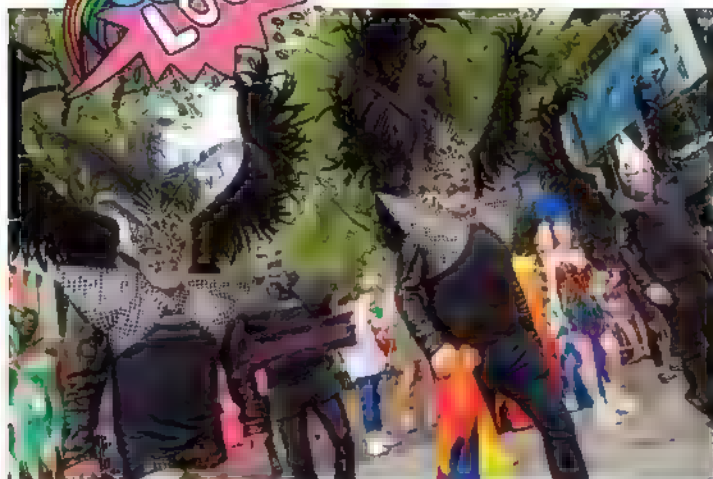






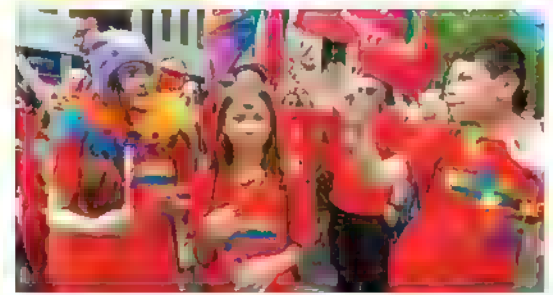
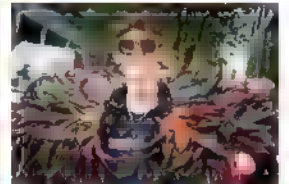
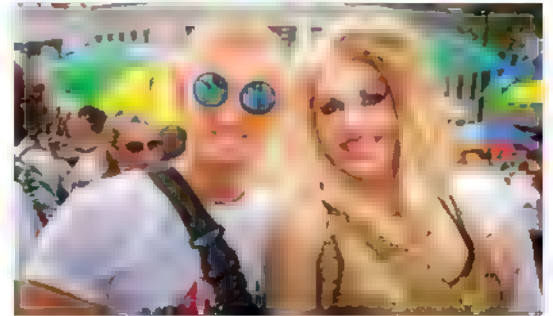
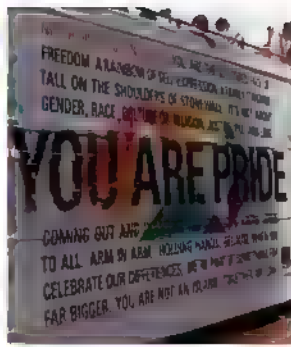
LOVE
OUT
LOUD

Carnival
Parade

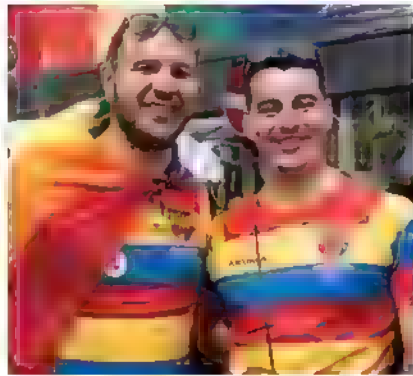
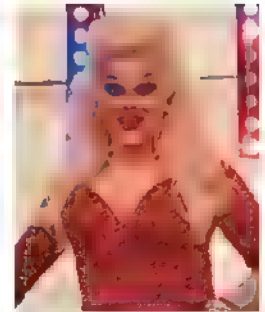
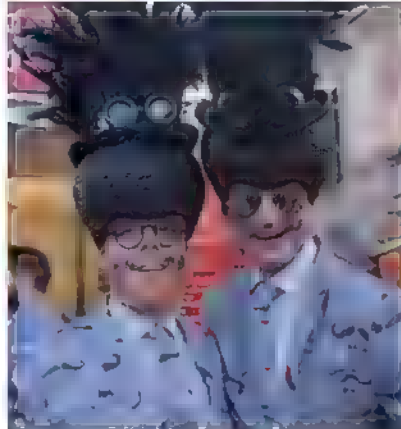
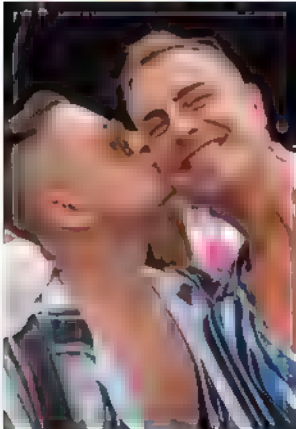


PICTURE
SPECIAL

PICTURE SPECIAL

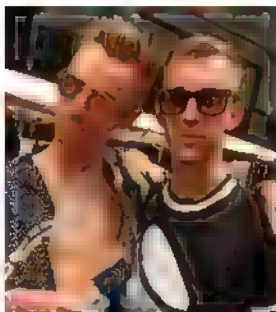
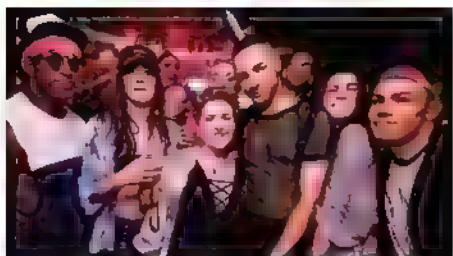
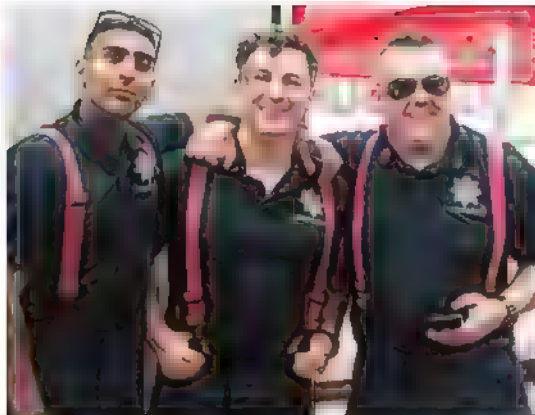


Around the Gay Village

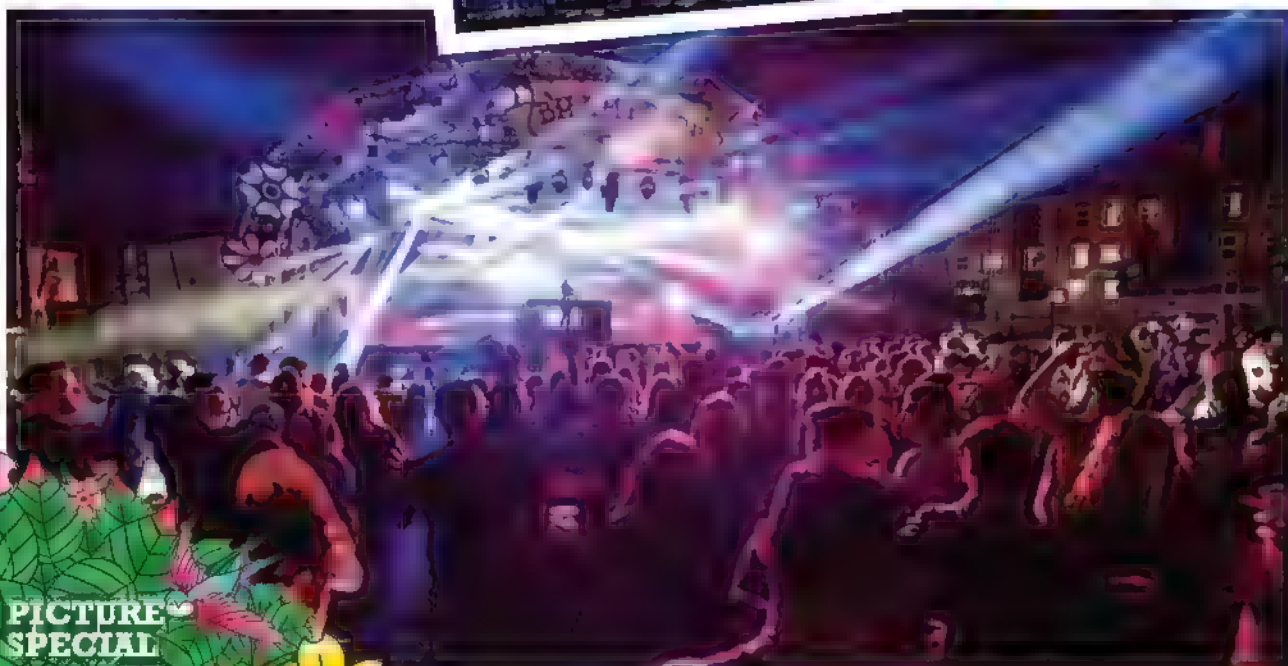
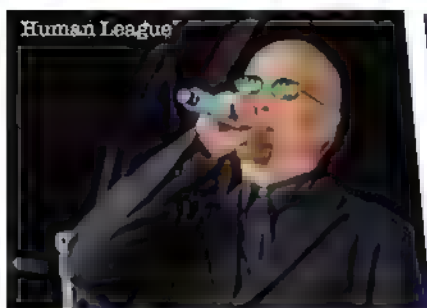
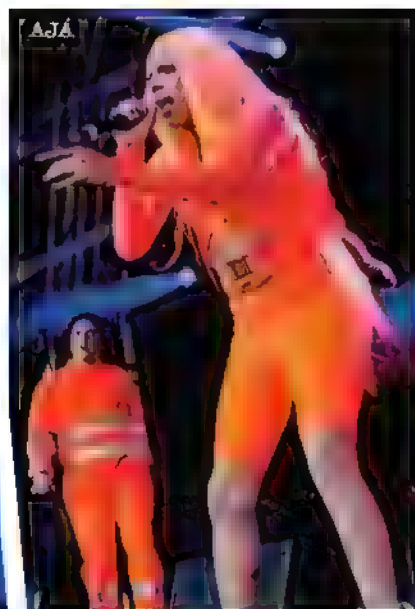
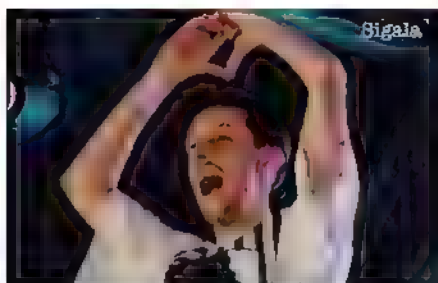
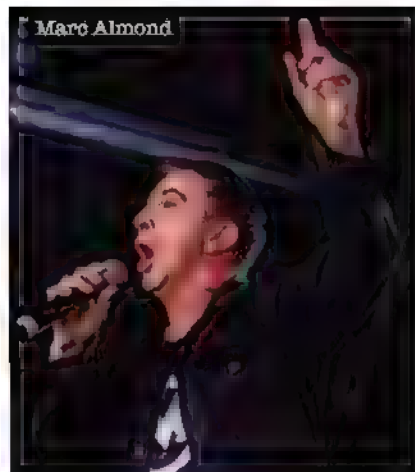
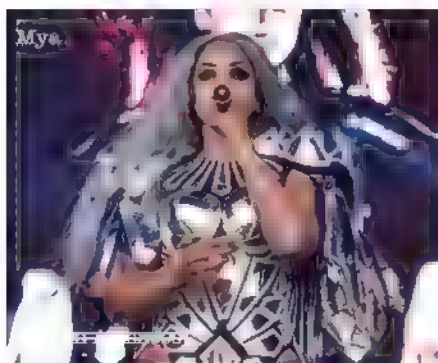


PICTURE
SPECIAL

22 MidlandsZone.co.uk

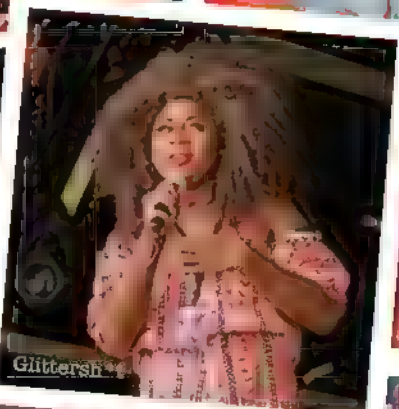
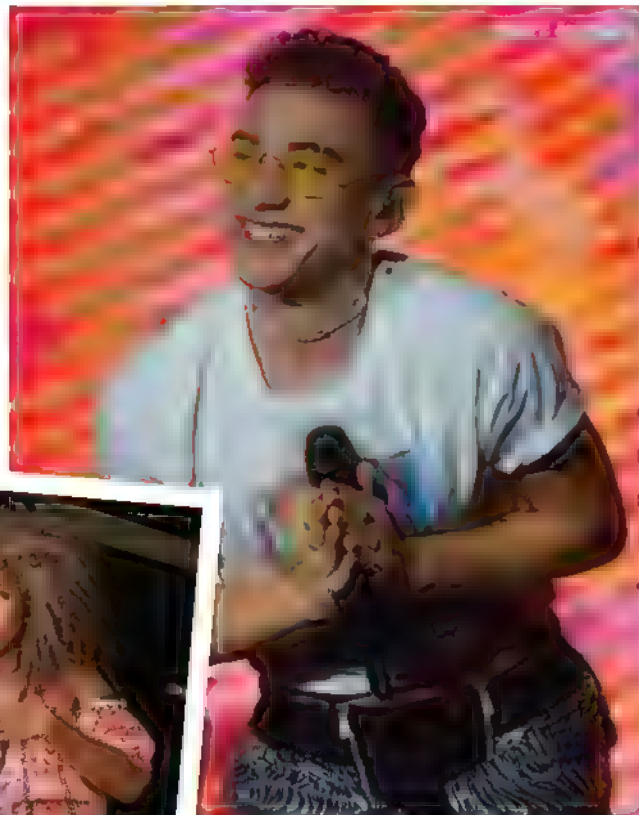
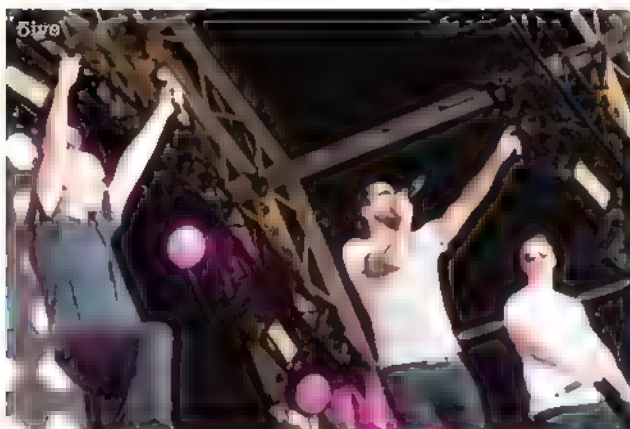


The Main Stage

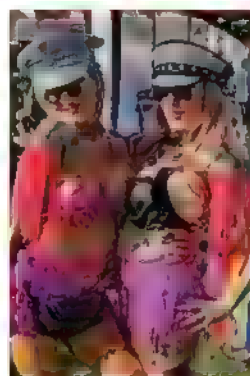
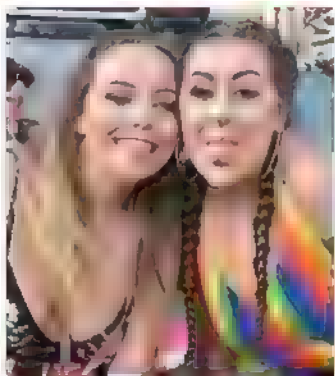
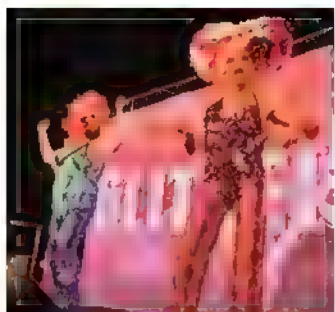
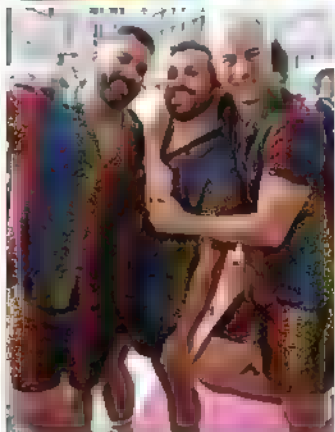


PICTURE SPECIAL

© Mediaset Zine 2014



Around the Gay Village



PICTURE
SPECIAL

Pictures by **Laura Byrne, Glive Padden, James Furnival, Jason Dawson, Kal Ahmed, Darren Hodson, Chris Wynne, Fox & Squirrel & Kev Maslin**

© 2014 Midland Echo

Superheroes are go at Coventry Pride

Making a welcome return this month, Coventry Pride is taking the theme #SuperHeroesofPride and encouraging everyone to celebrate the superhero within themselves and diversity in all its forms.

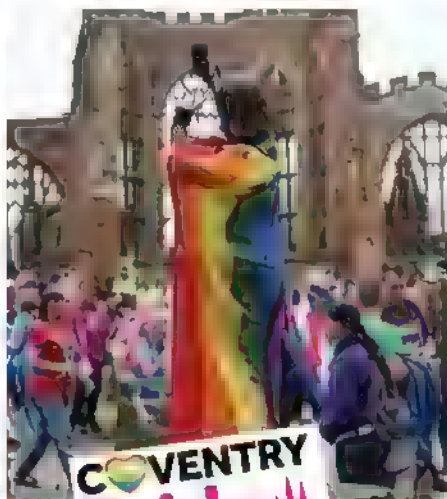
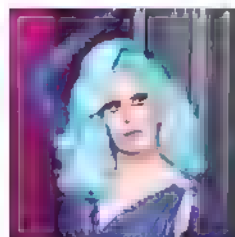
Organisers are inviting people to come together as one and 'share our wonderful city without fear of discrimination': "Regardless of sexual orientation, Coventry Pride invites everyone from all corners of the city to be themselves and enjoy the event."

Former Girls Aloud singer Nadine Coyle is one of the main attractions during Pride weekend. Nadine (pictured right) will perform alongside Rozalla, The Hara, Kelly Wilde and Rachel McFarlane at Coventry's ever-popular LGBT venue, The Yard, on Saturday 8 June. The action kicks off at midday and continues into the early hours.

The venue also plays host to a second round of entertainment on the Sunday, presenting a cabaret extravaganza featuring Kym Mazelle, Miss Marty, Glitoris Girls and Charlie Hides as Lisa Q Jones. What's not to like?...



Nadine Coyle at The Yard in Coventry



What's happening at Coventry Pride...

The parade

Coventry Pride features a walking parade through the city centre on Saturday 8 June, gathering at Greyfriars Green from 10am and departing along the route at 11am. To take part in the walk, you can register for your FREE ticket at coventrypride.org.uk/walking-parade-2019

Stages

The festival boasts five stages across the two days, offering something for everyone to enjoy.

The five stages are:

Phoenix Stage - Located in University Square and catering for a wide mix of tastes.

Fire Stage - The Yard and Glamorous Coventry come together to present a host of drag acts and plenty more besides.

Three Spires Stage - Pop up stage located inside the Herbert Art Gallery and playing relaxed background music.

Lady Go-Diva Stage - Located in Alfred's café in the Herbert Art Gallery and showcasing stand-up comedy and cabaret acts

Community Stage - located in the Cathedral ruins

For more information and the full line-up, head to coventrypride.org.uk

PRIDE @ The Yard



Saturday 8 June - from 12pm

NADINE COYLE // ROZALLA

THE HARA // KELLY WILDE // RACHEL MCFARLANE

THE UPSIDERS // AMRICK CHANNA // TIN // SPICEWORLD

STRICTLY LGBT+ // TERRENCE HIGGINS POSITIVE VOICES

MISS MARTY // THE SATURNOS // ROCKELLA BROWN // AMY LAQUEEFA

TRISHA BIRMINGHAM // FANNIE COIL // AURA JAY & MORE!

the
yard

COVENTRY
Pride

The Yard, 11-12 Bull Yard, Coventry, CV1 1LH
www.theyardcoventry.co.uk 024 7501 2959

TWO DAYS // FREE ENTRY // HUGE OUTSIDE STAGE // OUTSIDE BARS // STREET PERFORMERS & MORE



Sunday 9 June - from 12pm

CHARLIE HIDES AS LISA Q JONES
KYM MAZELLE // ESSENTIAL 80'S
MISS MARTY // GLITORIS GIRLS // DJ'S

the
yard

COVENTRY
Pride

The Yard, 11-12 Bull Yard, Coventry, CV1 1LH
www.theyardcoventry.co.uk 024 7501 2959

Free sexual health check-ups

Stoke-on-Trent Pride

Saturday 15th June

Hanley Park



LGBTSTOKE.CO.UK

Michael
Rice

From Tel Aviv to Hanley Park!

Michael Rice joins in the celebrations at this year's Stoke Pride

The UK's Eurovision 2019 entrant, Michael Rice, will perform at this year's Stoke-on-Trent Pride, less than a month after his outrageously underrated performance at the Song Contest in Tel Aviv

This year taking place in the city's Hanley Park on Saturday 15 June, Stoke Pride has grown into one of the city's biggest and most vibrant annual community festivals since debuting in 2006. The popular one-day event features a parade, stalls, dog show, face painting, circus performers, comedians and live music performances from Kelly Wilde and Rozalla.

Other artists confirmed for this year's festival include Brandon Craig, Allan Jay and Swedish Invasion, all of whom will be playing on the festival's Proud To Be Stage in what promises to be Stoke's biggest ever celebration of gay pride.



Rozalla



SUMMER OF PRIDE JUNE 2019

JUNE

Oxford Pride

Saturday 1 June
Oxford Castle Quarter
& Paradise St
oxford-pride.org.uk

Pride Blackpool

Saturday 8 June
Tower Festival Headland
prideblackpool.co.uk

Mighty Hoopla

Saturday 8 June
Brockwell Park, London
mightyhoopla.com

Coventry Pride

Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 June
University Square, Coventry
coventrypride.org.uk

Canterbury Pride

Saturday 15 June
Dane John Gardens
Canterbury, Kent
pridecanterbury.com

Stoke on Trent Pride

Saturday 15 June
Hanley Park, Stoke-on-Trent
stokeontrentpride.org.uk

Pride Edinburgh

Saturday 22 June
Edinburgh
prideedinburgh.org.uk

Lancaster Pride

Saturday 22 June
Dalton Square, Lancaster
lancasterpride.co.uk

Suffolk Pride

Saturday 22 June
Ipswich Waterfront, Ipswich
twitter.com/suffolkpride

Exmouth Pride

Saturday 22 June
Manor Gardens, Exmouth
exmouthpride.co.uk

Colchester Pride

Saturday 29 June
Firstsite Colchester
colchesterpride.com



THIS GAY LIFE: The Stephen Spinks Column

TOM OF FINLAND

A CREATIVE GENIUS

It still makes me smile. Every time I walk into certain gay bars, whichever city I'm in, you can always guarantee that somewhere on the wall will be some form of homage to Tom of Finland.

Tom of Finland's artwork is synonymous with gay culture, an eternal beacon which, for so many of us, has acted like a guiding light, much like a rainbow flag. It's hardly surprising, given both the content and the creative design. His homoerotic art, full of hyper-masculine men with oversized muscles and dicks, has, since the 1950s, become the stuff of legend.

Tom of Finland, though, is the brand. Behind this rugged persona lies the real Tom - Touko Laaksonen - whose shy and retiring personality was quite different to those of the characters he portrayed. Born in 1920 in the Finnish village of Kaarina, he lived a quiet, rural life, brought up by his teacher parents and his sister. Living in an age when homosexuality was illegal and punishable by imprisonment, Touko grew up, like so many men of his era, with the need to keep hidden for his own safety both his sexuality and his desires. But the world in which he grew up also played a crucial role in influencing his later works. A keen artist, Touko began to draw manual labourers and handsome, rugged loggers from the age of 10, creating illustrations which, he

By giving head, fucking and fisting, as well as kissing too, Tom's men were the first of their kind to go this far and this intimately



later revealed in an interview, he kept hidden from his parents. He also developed a fetish for black, leather, polished boots, and managed to convince his unsuspecting parents to purchase him a pair, which he then used to wear to bed until he was caught by his mother

HIS BIGGEST INSPIRATION

By 1939 and the outbreak of the Second World War, he was living in Helsinki and attending art school. Living his best life, he befriended construction workers, sailors from the local port and other men who would end up being an influence on his drawings. Perhaps his biggest inspiration, though, were the Nazi soldiers who supported Finland against the Russians during the war. While Touko had no affiliation or taste for Nazi ideology or the party's agenda, he was extremely attracted to their uniforms - most notably and not at all surprisingly their highly polished black German Jackboots, which had a definite sexual appeal for him. It was also during the war, in which he served, that he began to have real sexual encounters, mostly with Nazi soldiers garrisoned in and around Finland. These experiences left a lasting impression on him.

TOM OF FINLAND IS BORN

Surviving the war and securing a job in advertising, Touko used his spare time to indulge his private passion for erotic drawing. His first comic strip, quietly produced in 1946 for what was then considered the Finnish 'gay underworld', marked the start of a greater journey. By the mid 1950s, his drawings had become more masculine and raunchy. At great personal risk to himself, he would offer up his artwork to friends as gifts, as well as for their pleasure. In 1956, he submitted drawings to American muscle magazine *Physique Pictorial*. The following year, the editor penned the pseudonym Tom of Finland, to add an 'exotic' aspect to the work for its American audience. Touko was about to go big time. His drawings of men in jodhpurs, high black leather boots, caps and leather gloves won the attention of men in America who were also unable to be 'out', and who used the physique magazines as porn in the absence of any other options to satisfy their desires. Touko's artwork gained in popularity when he began taking inspiration from the likes of heartthrob actor Marlon Brando, famed in part for his exceptional good looks as well as his leather biker jacket. Touko was quickly beginning to build up a wider following.

By the 1960s, he was drawing regular panel series; sets of drawings that told stories of sexual encounters over a number of images. His emphasis on sailors and bikers won the hearts of many. But perhaps his best known and most loved work came in 1968, when he developed an ongoing character named Kake, pronounced 'cocky'. It is Kake who, in the main, appears to this day across many of the gay bars that still exhibit Touko's work. And it's not hard to see why, given the character's timeless appeal. Super-muscled, well-endowed, dark haired and confident, Kake had a penchant for white T-shirts bearing the motto 'Fucker'. He ostensibly travelled the world on his motorcycle, living out his sexual desires in a carefree manner. He is the libertine in all of us.

A BOLD STATEMENT

The brilliance of Touko's art can be found not only in its timeless nature but also in its inherent capacity to make statements. Kake and the guys he meets

on his travels have great and 'happy sex'. They are all comfortable and proud. At a time when gay liberation was in its infancy, Touko's iconic drawings were a testament to that movement. In giving head, fucking, fisting and kissing, Touko's men were the first of their kind to go so far and be so intimate on paper. In so doing, they sent a message that the gay community would not hide in shame, and that gay individuals had just as much right as the next person to have free, fun and exciting sex. There was to be no shame in our actions; only warmth, freedom and celebration. It was a bold statement that did much to reinforce the confidence of the community and overcome the sense of shame which had been heaped upon it.

A HOUSEHOLD NAME

In 1968, the story books were produced by a Danish publisher, and thereafter were a regular feature, especially when printed by Coq of Denmark. Revolt Press in Sweden also contracted to print Touko's work, and through the '70s, wide international distribution set him up as a household name in gay culture. With the success of Kake, Touko branched out to create other stories, including Jack, Pekkas and other one-offs. With success achieved, the Tom of Finland company was formed in LA in 1979 with Dirk Dehner, which took control of the art works and became sole publisher.

Five years later, the Tom of Finland Foundation was set up to protect, preserve and archive for future generations Touko's lifetime of work. As a nonprofit foundation, it has since grown to support other artists who work in the visual field of sexuality. And so Touko's contribution to gay culture continues to support and help millions, despite his death from emphysema in 1991.

LOVED BY MILLIONS

Today, Tom of Finland continues to be cherished by a generation of gay men who loved and lived alongside the work in an age of greater intolerance and indifference. For some who are coming to Kake and others for the first time, Touko's art

remains timeless and seems just as beautifully crafted and erotic as ever it was. To others, his work, with its specific focus on a certain type of man, can feel outdated or irrelevant and objectifying. Yet what must be remembered is the context in which his art was produced. Loved by millions, it is a standing testament to Touko's creative genius. Tom of Finland will always be an iconic character in gay culture, a milestone marker in the march towards liberation and a bold signal that we were, and continue to be, right to enjoy our lives without shame. So great in fact is Touko's contribution to the wider visual arts world, that we now have an international Tom of Finland day, celebrated each year on Touko's birthday (8 May).

So the next time you see a piece of his work, take a minute to think about just how much of an achievement it really was; that one man living in an age of acute intolerance, and who could have been imprisoned for his drawings, carried on striving to liberate through art his community in ways that were both revolutionary and innovative.

He deserves his note in gay history.





LET'S TALK: The Lacey Lou Column

Drag Queen Storytime...

The fabulous Fantabulosa!

"Now more than ever it is important to shape young and malleable minds with education of diversity and inclusivity."

Look back a few decades ago and there would have been worldwide outrage at a touring drag queen story time... has much changed today? With protests catching like wildfire around the UK over the inclusion of same sex references and education, it does make you question how far we have actually progressed in our attitudes. Now more than ever it is important to shape young and malleable minds with education of diversity and inclusivity. Introducing, Fantabulosa...

The brainchild and work of Adam Carver and Timothy Hodgson in Birmingham, Fantabulosa actually started over a year ago when he asked myself and fellow Birmingham drag artists to get involved. We didn't realise the impact it would have, what started as a pay check became a lot deeper and quite life altering for all of us. As Director of FANTABULOSA!, Adam Carver said: "We are in the middle of an extremely difficult time for minority communities in the UK and particularly in Birmingham. With rises in homophobic and islamophobic hate crime and the fiery debates around education coming to we want to create something positive to counter that narrative, to build bridges, and debunk some of the misconceptions about LGBTQ+ people. We want to show people that LGBTQ+ inclusion isn't something to be afraid of but something

that should be celebrated and can help us all to grow. In many ways we are making the show we wish we could have seen when we were kids"

The protests against LGBTQ+ inclusive education have returned to some Birmingham schools and have spread to other towns. It's an alarming thought that we could be about to take a few steps back in terms of inclusion. However, Fantabulosa is back and embarking on a national tour across the UK, chipping away and doing our bit to promote inclusivity, diversity and self acceptance.

We will be heading to festivals and cities across the UK throughout 2019, FANTABULOSA! will take to the streets with a free interactive drag storytelling cabaret show (including telling stories featured in the No Outsiders programme, subject of the recent protests at Parkfield Primary School). Created with a cast of the UK's leading drag artists the project aims to celebrate difference, teach children about diversity and self acceptance, and increase visibility for LGBTQ+ communities in public spaces. We look forward to seeing you and your families, lets spread some Fantabulosa.

Lots of love,

Lacey X



Where you can check out Fantabulosa this summer...

Performance dates include:

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
- June 1

Greenwich+Docklands International
Festival June 22 & 23

Didsbury Arts Festival June 30

Hat Fair (Winchester) - July 6 & 7

Pride in Hull July 20

Stockton International Riverside
Festival Aug 2 & 3

Devizes Carnival & Devizes

International Street Festival - Aug 26

The Civic Garden Party, The Civic,
Barnsley Sept 14

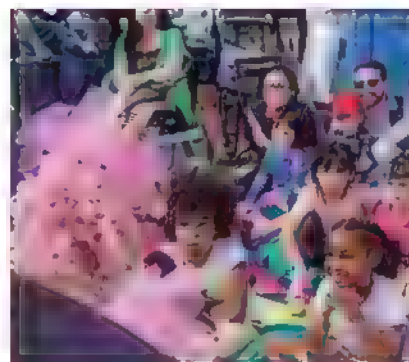
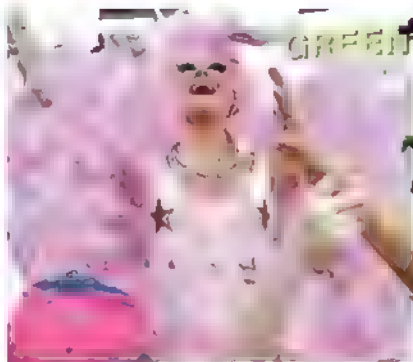
Derby Feste Sept 28

Further dates to be announced.

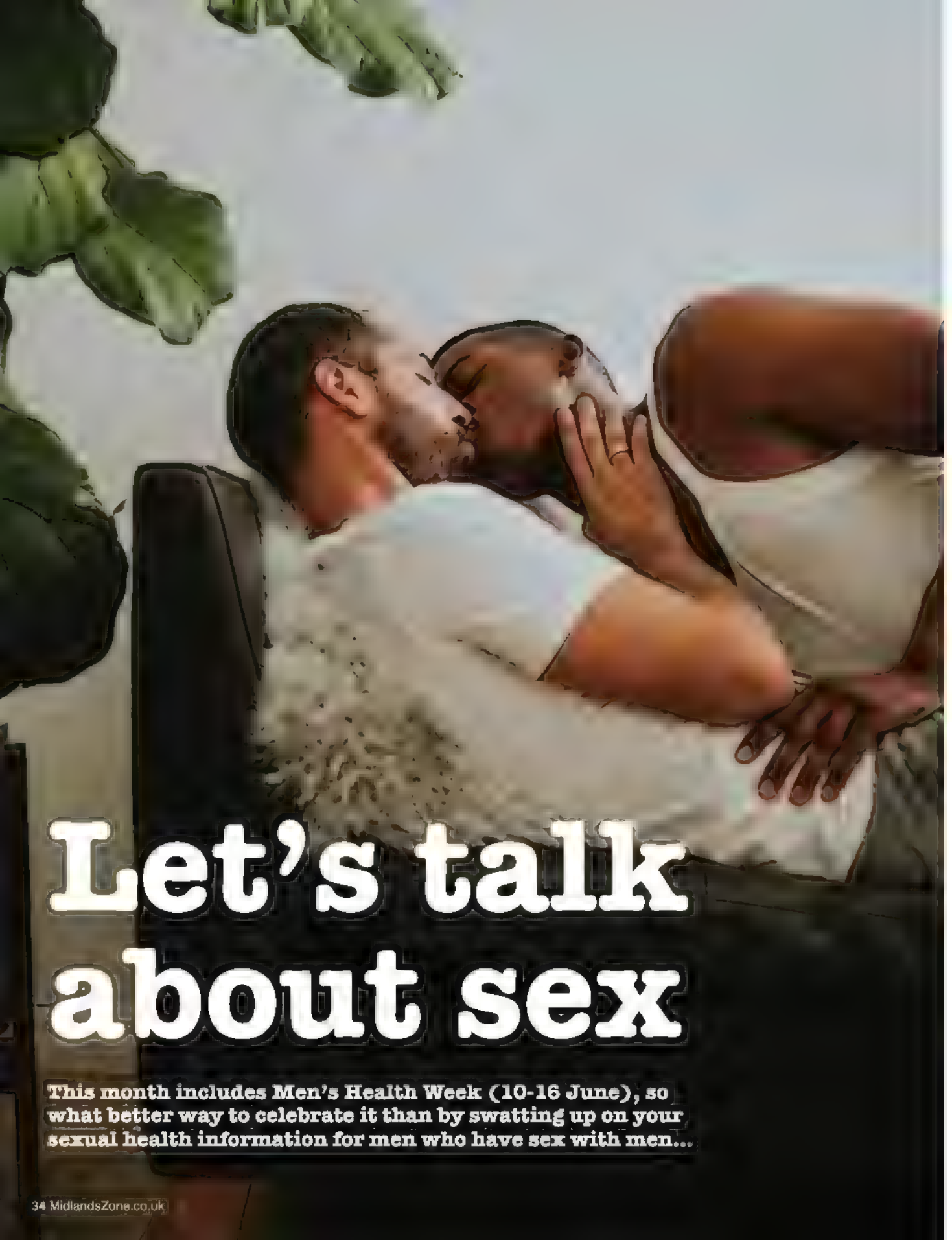
AGES Suitable for ages 3-8 (but
fabulous for grown ups too!)

No advance booking required just turn
up!

**Check out Fantabulosa on social
media at @fantabulosa_ on Twitter
and FantabulosaShow on Facebook.**



TWITTER: Carry on the chat @laceymcfadyen



Let's talk about sex

This month includes Men's Health Week (10-16 June), so what better way to celebrate it than by swatting up on your sexual health information for men who have sex with men...

Your sexual health questions answered

Gaylife Stoke answers some of your top questions about sexual health

Signs and symptoms

There are many signs and symptoms of STIs, but some may not appear for weeks or even months. It's important to get tested regularly, especially if you have multiple partners or engage in unprotected sex. Common symptoms include unusual discharge, sores, itching, and pain during sex. If you notice any of these, it's best to consult a healthcare professional for a proper diagnosis and treatment. Early detection and treatment can prevent complications and reduce the risk of transmission to others.

Protection

Using protection is the most effective way to prevent STIs. Condoms, both latex and non-latex, are highly effective when used correctly. Other options include dental dams and condoms for anal sex. For those who are not sexually active, there are also topical treatments available. It's important to remember that protection should be used consistently and correctly every time. Additionally, getting vaccinated for certain STIs, like HPV and Hepatitis B, can provide extra protection. Regular testing and open communication with your partner are also key to staying safe.

Getting tested

How often should I be getting an STI test?

Public Health England recommends that men who have sex with men should test annually for HIV and STIs, and every three months if having condomless sex with new or casual partners.

Where can I get a full STI test?

The best place to go is at your GP surgery or a sexual health clinic, where you can get a full range of tests.

For more information, go to www.gaylifestoke.co.uk

or visit our website to access a self-testing kit in your area. People in Stoke-on-Trent can visit Cobridge Community Health Centre for a full STI test.

Where can I get sexual health advice and information?

You can visit your nearest sexual health clinic or contact us via our website.

For more information, go to www.gaylifestoke.co.uk. You can also find us on Facebook 'Gaylife Stoke' or @GaylifeStoke.

Men's Health Week

10-16 June

**This is where you
can get tested!**

Birmingham

Birmingham LGBT

38-40 Holloway Circus,
Birmingham B1 1EQ
Tel: 0121 643 0821 blgbt.org

Umbrella - various locations across Birmingham & Solihull

Tel: 0121 237 5700
umbrellahealth.co.uk

Burton

Integrated Sexual Health Services

Main Road Branston Burton-
on-Trent DE14 3EY Tel: 0300
124 5022 option 3
openclinic.org.uk

Cannock

Integrated Sexual Health Services

Park House 12 Park Road
Cannock Staffordshire WS11
1JN
Tel: 0300 124 5022 option 1
openclinic.org.uk

Coventry

Integrated Sexual Health Services

City of Coventry Health Centre,
CV1 4FS
covworkpl.nhs.uk Tel: 0300
020 0027

Derby

Derbyshire Community Health Services

Pearlree Rd, Derby, DE23 6QD
Tel: 0800 328 3383
yoursexualhealthmatters.org.uk

Dudley

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Pensnett Rd, Dudley DY1 2HQ
Tel: 01384 456111
www.dgft.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/genito-urinary-medicine

Hereford

Integrated Sexual Health Hereford

130-132 Widemarsh Street,
Heffernan House, Hereford
HR4 9HN

Tel: 01432 483693

sexualhealthservices4herefordshire.co.uk

Leicester

Trade Sexual Health

Floor 2, 27 Bowling Green St,
Leicester LE1 6AS Tel: 0116
254 1747

www.tradesexualhealth.com

Leicester NHS Sexual Health

various clinics across
Leicester Tel: 0300 124 0102
leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

Shropshire

Integrated Sexual Health Services

Severn Fields Health Village,
Sundorne Rd, Shrewsbury SY1
4RQ Tel: 0300 123 0994

Bishton Court, Rampart Way,
Telford, TF3 4JE Tel: 0300 123
0994 openclinic.org.uk

Tamworth

Integrated Sexual Health Services

Sir Robert Peel Hospital
Plantation Lane Mile Oak
Tamworth B78 3NG Tel: 0300
124 5022 option 2

Warwickshire

Nuneaton: George Elliot
Hospital, College Street Tel:
0300 123 6644 option 1

Rugby: The Pine Clinic,
Hospital of St Cross, Barby
Road, CV22 5PX Tel: 0300 123
6644 option

Stratford Healthcare
Building, Arden Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37
6NQ Tel: 0300 123 6644
option
sexualhealthwarwickshire.nhs.uk

Wolverhampton

Terrence Higgins Trust
346 New Hampton Rd E,
Wolverhampton WV1 4AD

Tel: 01902 711818
tnt.org.uk/centres-and-services/wolverhampton

Walsall

Integrated Sexual Health (Wish)

Manor Hospital, Walsall Tel:
01922 270400
walsallsexualhealth.co.uk



Testing at home

For those who may not want to head to a sexual health clinic there are now ways to test for STIs from the comfort of your own home.

How to use self-test kits safely

You can get self test kits for a range of health concerns, including sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

These kits are available on the high street, online and on the NHS.

Before buying a self test kit, it's best to talk to a health professional, such as your pharmacist. They can help you decide which kit is best for you and tell you how to use it.

Remember, you can also get free high-quality tests through the NHS via your GP, hospital or sexual health clinic.

Buying self-test kits safely

If you're buying a self test kit online, it's important to be wary of the claims they make, as they may be misleading.

Before using one, make sure the kit is sealed, without any damage to the packaging, and is within its expiry date. Check that the instructions for use are clear and easy to follow.

You should also make sure it has a CE quality assurance mark. This means that, provided you use it correctly, the kit will work properly and is safe.

If you have concerns about the quality of a self test kit (if it's damaged, for example), you should report it using the Yellow Card Scheme.

A self test kit should never replace a health professional's advice or a result from a national screening programme.

The Medicines and Healthcare products

Regulatory Agency has more advice about buying medical devices online.

Get advice from a health professional first

It's important to remember that, if you're taking any medicines, they may affect your test results.

It's worth getting advice from a health professional first, as using a self test kit may not be appropriate for you.

It's rare for a self-test kit to give a 100% guarantee that you have or do not have a particular condition.

It may not be as helpful as having a consultation with a GP or another health professional.

If you have any concerns, speak to a healthcare professional such as a pharmacist, practice nurse or GP.

When you get your results

No self-test kit is 100% reliable, and a CE mark is still no guarantee that a particular home test is suitable for you.

If you have any concerns about your results after using a self-help kit, make sure you get advice from a health professional.

If you do a self test for HIV and the result is positive, it's important that you contact a health professional as soon as possible and get the emotional and medical support you need.

Self-test kits for STIs

Everyone can get free tests for any STI,

including HIV, from their GP or local sexual health clinic.

Self-test kits for STIs are also available online and on the high street. They include home testing kits for infections such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea that you can send away to a laboratory.

If you think you may have an STI, the most important thing is to get tested and get medical advice quickly so that you can start treatment.

In some areas, people under the age of 25 can get free NHS testing kits for chlamydia. These are sent out to you and returned by post.

Some pharmacies provide an STI testing service (including those for chlamydia) and some can provide the treatment.

Free HIV tests if you're at higher risk

Free self-sampling HIV test kits are available online in many areas of the UK to people who are at higher risk.

To check whether you're eligible or find your local HIV service, go to test.hiv.

HIV self-test kits are also available from some pharmacies, but you'll usually have to pay.

It's important to check that any test you buy has a CE quality assurance mark and is licensed for sale in the UK, as poor-quality HIV self-test kits are still available from overseas.

You may need emotional support and counselling if you're testing for HIV, particularly if the result is positive.

KNOWING I'M
→ helping
CHILDREN
just feels
AMAZING

Join our

Childline

volunteers

at childline.org.uk
Spend four hours each week and take a life-changing
experience for children. Visit nspcc.org.uk/childlinevolunteer

NSPCC EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH IT

© NSPCC 2018. Registered Charity England and Wales 215001, Scotland SC037117
Photograph by John Squire. Illustration by Remy McLean. Childline & Childline volunteers. 2018/1/20



Physical Education

Friday 21 June 2019, 7.30pm
CBSO Centre, Birmingham, B1 2LF

New work by BCMG Apprentice Composer-in-Residence 2018-19 Robert Reid Allan in collaboration with filmmaker Sasha Balmazi-Owen and actor Richard Court.

Suitable for ages 18+

bcmg.org.uk
0121 616 2616

MENS HEALTH

LEICESTER

Free, private and confidential sexual health checks for gay & bisexual men, men who have sex with men and swingers*.

*

Day: Mondays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 29 New Bond Street, LE1 4RQ

Splash Spa & Leisure

Day: Tuesdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 61 Bedford Street, LE1 3JR

Amigos Leisure

Day: Thursdays
Time: 2 - 5pm (last appointment 4.45pm)
Place: 30 Bedford Street South, LE1 3JR

GXC

Day: Fridays
Time: 12 - 2pm (last appointment 1.45pm)
Place: 2nd Floor, 27 Bowling Green Street, LE1 6AS
You can also check out Trade Sexual Health
www.tradesexualhealth.com

TRADE

Male only clinic sessions available
Find out more at
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

WIN!

with Midlands Zone...

A signed copy of PRIDE - The Story Of The LGBTQ Equality Movement

Marking the 50-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, Matthew Todd's new book documents milestone moments and events in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality. Midlands Zone has two signed copies to give away as competition prizes.



FOUR tickets to 9 To 5 The Musical

Fancy a laughter-filled evening and the chance to enjoy a selection of songs penned by the Queen of Country herself, Dolly Parton?

Well, 9 To 5 The Musical is heading to the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham (6 - 14 September) - and we've got four tickets to give away to the



Wednesday 11
September performance
at 7.30pm.

Enter the competition via our Facebook page at @midlandszone



20% OFF

VISIT OUR BIRMINGHAM STORE DURING PRIDE WEEKEND
AND SAVE 20% WITH THIS PROUD DISCOUNT

WE ARE:
ORIGINAL
INCLUSIVE
UNAPOLOGETIC
WE ARE CLONEZONE!
PROUD SINCE 1982



BIRMINGHAM
84 HURST STREET, B5 4TD
BIRMINGHAM | LONDON: SOHO | LONDON: EARLE COURT
PRIDEZONE.CO.UK | 0121 666 6640



What's On

Arts • Theatre • Entertainment

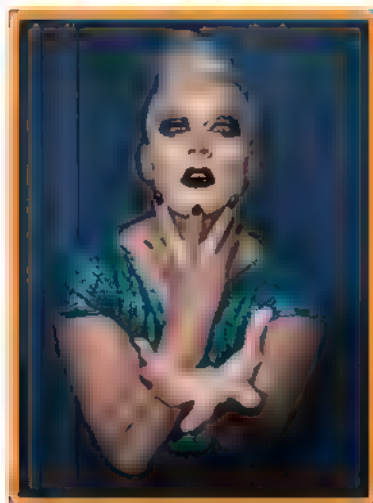


Avenue Q

This Tony Award-winning musical focuses on subjects including dating, racism, being gay and finding your purpose in life. At the centre of the story is Princeton, a bright-eyed college graduate with a tiny bank balance who, as he sets out on a voyage of self discovery, finds himself being easily distracted by a busty blonde and a plethora of weird and wonderful friends.

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre - Tuesday 11 - Saturday 15 June

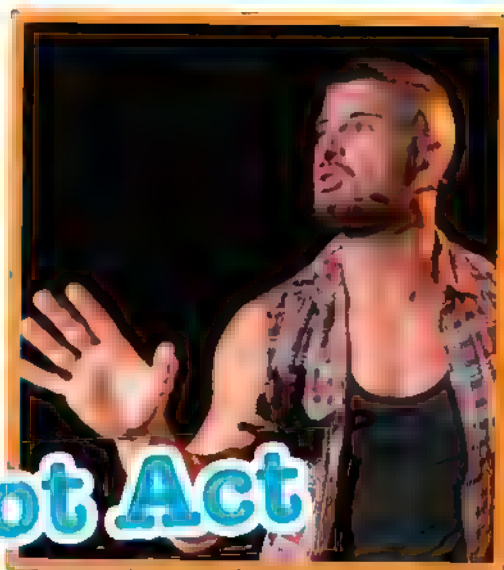
Velma Celli



Back by popular demand, 'the UK queen of live vocal drag' presents her 'most magical show yet'... Velma Celli here celebrates all her favourite bitching witches from musical theatre, the movies and popular culture.

From Ursula to Elphaba and every belty enchantress in between, Velma's little bit of practical cabaret magic is sure to put a spell on you!

Leicester Curve - Thursday 6 June



Riot Act

Direct from the West-End comes this hard hitting, heart-warming and critically acclaimed exploration of the history of the LGBTQ rights movement.

Marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, Riot Act is a powerful solo verbatim piece created from playwright & performer Alexis Gregory's interviews with one of the only remaining Stonewall survivors - a 1970s London radical-drag artist and prominent 1990s AIDS activist.

The Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham - Thursday 6 - Saturday 8 June

Spice Girls

Local Artists, Coventry, Monday 11 & Tuesday 12 June



Tan France

Queer Eye's Tan France discusses his heartfelt memoir, *Naturally Tan*, with host & comedian Sarah Millican. Expect an evening replete with Tan's trademark wit, as he explains what it was like growing up gay in a traditional South Asian family, how it felt to be one of the few people of colour in South Yorkshire - and how he ended up marrying a Mormon cowboy from Salt Lake City!

**Town Hall,
Birmingham -
Thursday 20 June**



Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra Summer Fiesta

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire,
Saturday 15 June

Rainbow Swing

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is presenting this special event to mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York.

Swing Dance originated in the 1940s, at a time when same-sex partners dancing together was a sight that would never have been seen in public. Being gay was still illegal for men, and women also experienced terrible consequences for same-sex love.

So if you fancy enjoying an experience that was sadly denied to gay people back in wartime Britain, get yourself along to this celebration of love in all its forms. Gender isn't important - just go along, learn the lead and follow steps, and dress however you fancy.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery - Saturday 8 June

John Barrowman



Entertainer extraordinaire John Barrowman is celebrating an impressive 30 years on stage and screen in 2019.

This month sees him bringing his Fabulous touring show to Brum, where he'll be singing some of his favourite songs and telling a host of cracking stories about his life and career.

**Symphony Hall,
Birmingham
Sunday 30 June**

Queer Prom

Didn't go to your prom? Or did go, but not as your true self?

Following sold out events in Brighton, London and Bristol, Queer Prom is bringing this second chance prom night to Birmingham!

Get ready for a sure-to-be-sparkling evening of talented DJs, queer cabaret and outrageous drag performances. And be sure to check out the special Queer Prom photo booth as well, so that you can take home memories of the prom you always wanted!

Nightingale Club, Birmingham - Friday 12 July



**NEXT
MONTH!
A DATE
FOR YOUR
DIARY!**



Birmingham Pride Picture Special from 2009



Gay Village improvement plans are formally approved by Council

The long awaited improvements to Birmingham's Gay Village have been formally approved by Birmingham City Council with a resolution passed at a meeting at the end of June.

The improvements include a new pedestrian bridge over the canal, a new bus stop, and a new cycle lane. The council also approved a new set of streetlights and a new set of benches.

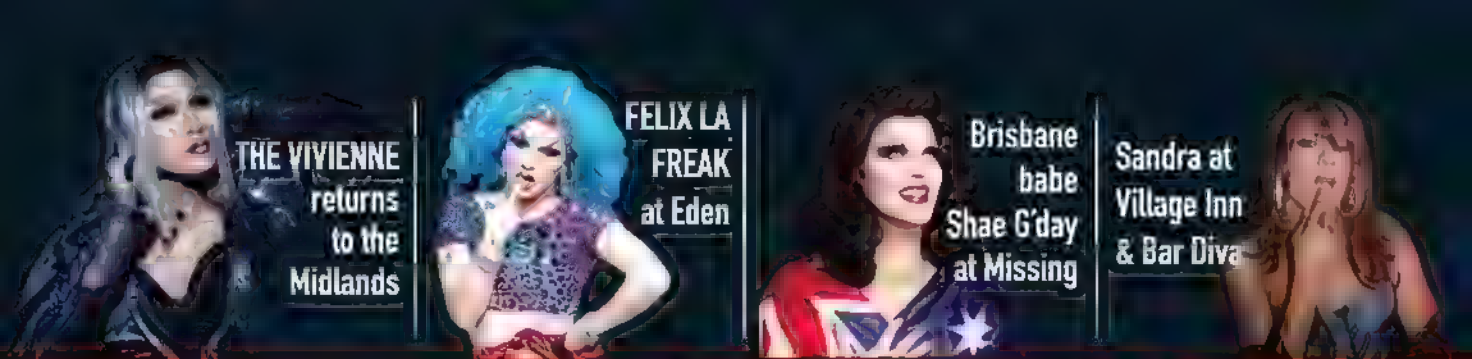
The improvements are expected to be completed by the end of the year.



10 YEARS since planting the trees in the gay village were approved doesn't time fly!

New SHOUT festival announced for Birmingham





THE VIVIENNE
returns
to the
Midlands

**FELIX LA
FREAK**
at Eden

Brisbane
babe
Shae G'day
at Missing

Sandra at
Village Inn
& Bar Diva

Your guide to the
month ahead on
the GAY SCENE

SCENE

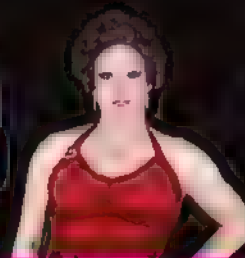


JUNE 2011

**Something
Kinda
Oooooh!**

**Girls Aloud's
Nadine Coyle**
headlines Coventry Pride
celebrations

What's On



Martha D'Arthur

Mon 3 June
Havana Republic,
Shrewsbury

AROUND THE MIDLANDS GAY SCENE



Girls Aloud's Nadine headlines Coventry party!

Something Kinda Ooooh is happening in Coventry this month! Girls Aloud's Nadine Coyle is headlining The Yard's impressive line up of acts for Coventry Pride weekend, performing on Saturday 8 June. Other Yard contributors across the weekend include Kelly Wilde, Rozalla and RuPaul's Drag Race star Charle Hides. This is the second year that the venue is hosting its Pride@The Yard event, complete with a huge outside stage, outdoor bars, street performers and plenty more. We can't wait.

Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 June, The Yard, Coventry

THE VIVIENNE RETURNS!

After a long absence, the fabulous Vivienne is back in the Midlands! She'll be performing at the Bar Diva in Dudley on Saturday 15 June. Tickets are available from the venue or from the Midlands Gay Scene website. www.midlandsgayscene.co.uk



Camp as T*ts with Shae G'Day at Missing

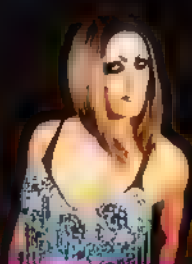
This Aussie queen has settled nicely into the UK. Originally from Brisbane but now based in London, Shae is here making her Birmingham debut. Amy LaQueefa plays host.

Sunday 16 June,
Missing Bar,
Birmingham



Miss Marty

Friday 7 June
The Yard,
Coventry



Fanny Burns

Fri 14 June, The
Yard, Coventry
Sun 23 June, The
Three Furnaces,
Telford



XXL with DJ Paul Morrell

Friday 21 June
The Core,
Birmingham



DANNY BEARD

Britain's Got Talent star Danny Beard returns to Birmingham award winning Eden Bar this month as 1000 returns again five days later. He stars Drag Idol semi final on Saturday 2 June. Danny then heads back to the venue on Thursday the 7th to present his own show. He will be back for all times.
Saturday 8 & Thursday 13 June,
Eden Bar, Birmingham

Gameden at Eden

Game on! The last Sunday of every month sees Eden Bar hosting afternoon board games, with newcomers and pros all welcome!

Sunday 30 June, Eden,
Birmingham



Sum Ting Wong

Now here's another great cabaret performer who's appearing at The Village Inn this month. Drag Idol finalist Sum Ting Wong will be live on stage entertaining the masses. If you haven't seen her before, be sure to pop along - she's fab!

Friday 7 June - Village Inn, Birmingham

Felix Le Freak

Thursday 27 June, Eden, Birmingham

Mary Mac at Eden

Frequent visitor to Brum and a big favourite at Eden Bar, Scottish drag star Mary Mac once again dons the tartan to bring you an evening of hit songs and cheeky celtic banter!

Saturday 29 June - Eden,
Birmingham

Baga Chipz

Kickstart your Fry-day with a night of top cabaret in the company of the fabulous Baga Chipz! Expect all her usual shenanigans live on stage, with a good old-fashioned sing-song thrown in for good measure!

Friday 14 June - Village Inn, Birmingham



What's On



Sandra London

Friday 21 June, The Yard, Coventry
Friday 28 June, Village Inn, Birmingham
Saturday 29 June, Bar Diva, Dudley

Lola Lasagne

She is a showgirl!

There's another brilliant night in prospect at Dudley's Bar Diva this month, as Lola Lasagne returns to the stage! Expect lots of laughter and fun, plus a good old-fashioned sing-song!

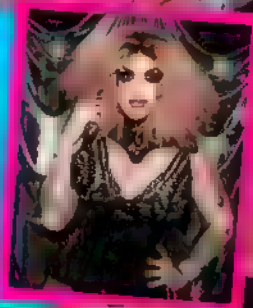
Saturday 22 June - Bar Diva, Dudley



Shyanne O'Shea

Essex based drag queen Shyanne O'Shea brings the luck of the Irish to Dudley this month. Expect to work those laughter muscles!

Saturday 15 June, Bar Diva, Dudley



Sam Southall

With over six years experience in showbiz, Sam Southall's first-class vocals and winning line in entertainment has been enjoyed at venues across the world. His repertoire is impressive too, with pop, swing, rock, jazz, reggae, rock'n'roll and rap all featuring.

Mon 17 June, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury



OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE:

Sun 2 June

Miss Tish Ewe, The Three Furnaces, Telford

Mon 3 June

Martha D'Arthur, Havana Republic, Shrewsbury

Fri 7 June

Miss Marty, The Yard, Coventry

Sun 9 June

Miss DQ, The Three Furnaces, Telford

Fri 14 June

Fanny Burns, The Yard, Coventry

Sat 15 June

Eurovision Drag Contest, Gossip, Stoke

BFM, Eden, Birmingham

Sun 16 June

Dave Morris, The Three Furnaces, Telford
Leather Social, Eden, Birmingham

Mon 17 June

Sam Southall, Havana

Republic, Shrewsbury

Fri 21 June

XML with DJ Paul Marrell
The Core, Birmingham
Midsbear, Eden, Birmingham

Sat 22 June

Afternoon Pup social & Saturday night Morrissey
Disco, Eden, Birmingham

Sun 23 June

Fanny Burns, The Three Furnaces, Telford

Fri 28 June

Tina Sparkle, The Yard, Coventry

Sat 29 June

Mother's Meeting, Bar Jester, Birmingham

Sun 30 June

Fixxi, The Three Furnaces, Telford

Email any events listings to editor@midlandszone.co.uk

KARAOKE ★ REPUBLIC

SHREWSBURY

Miss Penny's FABULOUS MONDAYS!

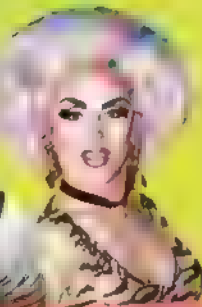
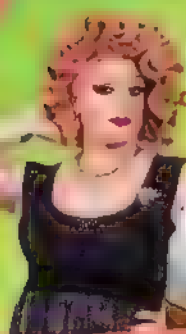
THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT OUT IN THE MIDLANDS



WED JUN
MARTHA
D'ARTHUR

MON THUR
SAM
SOUTHALL

FRI MON
SHANIA
PAIN



FREE ENTRY 04 12!

OPEN UNTIL 4AM!

GREAT £1 DRINKS

18 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SY2 6AE 01743 271821

GAY BARS & CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

Birmingham

EDEN BAR

Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar

EVERY WEDNESDAY 8PM
Quizzical with DJ Yogi



EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY
Karaoke & Disco with DJ
Nikki

EVERY SATURDAY
DJ Thel Lee & DJ Poni
alternate weeks



The Loft, Birmingham

THE LOFT

12 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge

FIRST MONDAY OF
THE MONTH
Queen's Quiz

EVERY MONDAY
Monday Cocktail Club
2 for £10

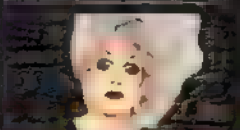
EVERY WEDNESDAY
Wing It Wednesday
Kilo of wings and drink £10

MISSING BAR

Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

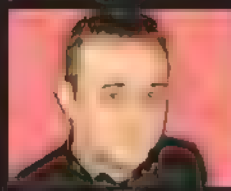
EVERY MONDAY UNTIL 4AM
Ministry of Pound with
DJ Mike Emery

EVERY TUESDAY
Karaoke with Gavina Vagina



EVERY THURSDAY 9PM
Thursdays with DJ Gavina
£1.50 bottle

EVERY FRIDAY 9PM
Hit Man and Her with DJ
Mike Emery
& Gavina Vagina



EVERY SATURDAY
Missing's House Party with
DJ Matty, DJ Mike Emery and
host Twiggy

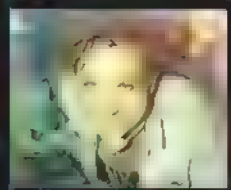
EVERY SUNDAY 8.30pm &
10.30pm
Camp as t'ts with Amy
LaQuefa and guest cabaret

NIGHTINGALE CLUB

Kent St, B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub

EVERY THURSDAY
Pounded! with £1 drinks all
night

EVERY FRIDAY
Absolute Anthems with DJs
Corey Hadley and Scott
Hillman



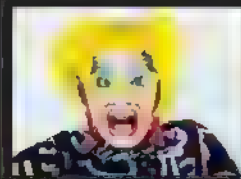
EVERY SATURDAY
Nightingale Saturdays with
free entry until 12pm

THE VILLAGE INN

Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham

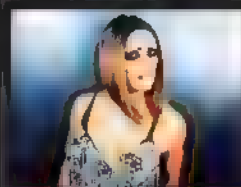
EVERY MONDAY 8PM
Binge with Queeny

EVERY TUESDAY
Pick a Mix with Ginny Lemon
& Blanche



EVERY WEDNESDAY
Karaoke with Pork Pie

EVERY THURSDAY
Miss Marty + Miss Penny
alternate weeks



EVERY SUNDAY
Yshee Black + special
guests

PLUS THESE VENUES

BAR JESTER
Holloway Circus, B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 622 1344

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefale, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797

DEVILS KITCHEN
Kent St, B5 6NB

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QJ
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St,
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

GLAMOROUS
27-35 Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 5912

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

SPARTAN HEALTH CLUB
127 George Road, B23
7SH
Tel: 0121 382 3345

UNIT 2
78 Lower Essex St, B5
6SN Tel: 0121 622 7070

Birmingham venues where you can pick up Midlands Zone



CANNOCK

CANDI CAINE'S CABARET LOUNGE

3 Church Street, WS11 1DE
Tel: 01902 756666

COVENTRY

GLAMOROUS COVENTRY

88 Short St, CV1 2LX
Tel: 02475 012959

THE YARD

11-12 Bull Yard, CV1 1LH

Tel: 02475 012 959

theyardcoventry.co.uk

f /TheYardCoventry

EVERY TUESDAY

Jelly Cube quiz night

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Open mic night hosted by
Tom Barnwell

EVERY THURSDAY 8PM

Free Shot Karaoke with
Jupiter & Minerva



EVERY SATURDAY

DJ Richard Alexander with
Jupiter and Minerva

EVERY SUNDAY

Bingo, Play Your Cards Right
and Deal or No Deal with
weekly cash prizes of over
£100

DUDLEY

BAR DIVA

76 Lower Plaza Mall, King

Street, DY2 8NZ

f /BarDivaThePlaceToBe



EVERY MONDAY

Manic Monday with Miss
Annie

EVERY THURSDAY

Get Pounded Karaoke with
Miss Annie

EVERY FRIDAY

Freaky Friday's with DJ
Mikey

EVERY SATURDAY

Cabaret Saturdays with Miss
Annie

EVERY SUNDAY

Ring & Ride with Mo &
Margaret

SHREWSBURY

HAVANA REPUBLIC

18-21 Abbey Foregate,

SY2 6AE

Tel: 01743 271821

havanarepublic.co.uk

f /HavanaRepublic



EVERY MONDAY

Fabulous Mondays with Miss
Peany and guest cabaret
every 1st and 3rd Monday

THE PEACH TREE

18-21 Abbey Foregate

Tel: 01743 355055

thepeachtree.co.uk

f /ThePeachTreeRestaurant



WYKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP

5 Hope Street, ST1 5BT

Tel: 01929 666666

PINK

93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS

Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

HEROES HEALTH CLUB

5 Lower High St, DY8 1TE

Tel: 0138 444 2030

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES

30 Bridgnorth Rd, Madeley,

TF7 4JB, 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION

Birchills St, WS2 8NG

Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION

Park St, WS1 1NW

Tel: 01922 637790

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

THE GREENHOUSE

Willenhall Road, WS10 8JC

Tel: 0121 568 6126

WOMBSHAMPTON

GORGEOUS

School St, WV1 4LF

Tel: 01902 427247

f /gorgeousbar



EVERY SATURDAY 10PM

EGG Saturdays

WORCESTER

THE FLAG

50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG

Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB

Angel Row, WR1 3QN

Tel: 01905 20218

DERBY

THE CROWN INN

40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL

LEICESTER

BOXED BAR & MUSIC VENUE

(Boss @ Boxed) Gay every

first Sunday of the month

110 Granby St, LE1 1DL

DOVER CASTLE

34 Dover St, LE16PT

Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSEINKI

94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB

Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE

185 Charles St, LE1 1LA

Tel: 0116 254 7568

SAUNAS IN THE AREA

AMIGOS LEISURE

30 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR

0116 254 1945

CLUB 29

29 New Bond St, LE1 4RQ

Tel: 0116 262 7770

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE

61 Bedford St South, LE1 3JR

Tel: 0116 367 3932

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON

College St, NN1 2QP

Tel: 01604 604404

TARGET OVER
50,000
READERS EVERY
MONTH

WITH THE UK'S BIGGEST
REGIONAL LGBTQ MAGAZINE

ZONE



The Village Inn, Birmingham

WEEKLY DEALS

The Loft

MONDAYS

2 COCKTAILS £10

ANY 2 COCKTAILS £10 ALL NIGHT

TUESDAYS

3 SMALL PLATES £10

OR ANY 3 FOR £15

WEDNESDAYS

WINGS + DRINK £10

KILO OF WINGS + SELECTED DRINK

THURSDAYS

PIZZA + PINT £10

ANY PIZZA + PINT FOR £10

FRIDAYS

FIZZ + CHIPS £10

FRESH FISH + CHIPS WITH PROSECCO

SAT + SUN

BRUNCH

AVAILABLE FROM 10PM

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY ROAST

BEEF, CHICKEN, VEGGIE, CHEF'S CHOICE

WWW.THELOFTBRUM.CO.UK

THELOFTBRUM @THELOFTBRUM LOFTBRUMNGHAM

143 BROMSGROVE STREET BIRMINGHAM 0121 622 2444

SPARTAN

MALE HEALTH CLUB & SAUNA

FACILITIES:

- SAUNA • GYM • FAST TAN CLUB
- CAFE • RELAXATION AREA
- REST ROOMS
- AIR CONDITIONING
- FREE WIFI

Opening Times:

Mon - Fri: 11am - 10pm

Sat: 11am - 6:30pm

Sun: Noon - 8:30pm

Prices:

12 noon - 6pm: £10.00

After 6pm: £8.00

(Savers Card & Student Discount Available)

127 George Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

Tel: 0121 382 3345

www.spartanhealthclub.co.uk

ONLY 2 MINUTES FROM A50 JUNCTION 6 (SPARKETT), JUST A MINUTE FROM BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE

MGM

BIRMINGHAM MATURE GAY MEN

MEETING & FRIENDS

FOR MATURE GAY MEN

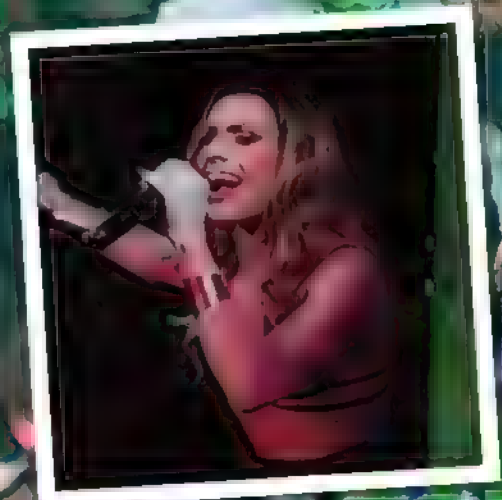


MGM - Midlands.org.uk

mgmbham@gmail.com

Call Tom for details - 07899 335677

The Fox, Lower Edgbaston Street, Birmingham, B5 6SN

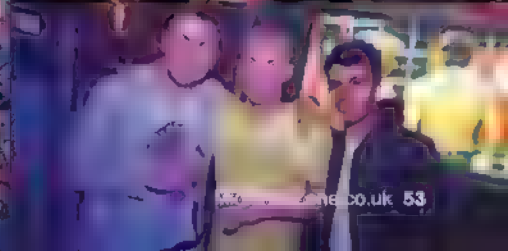
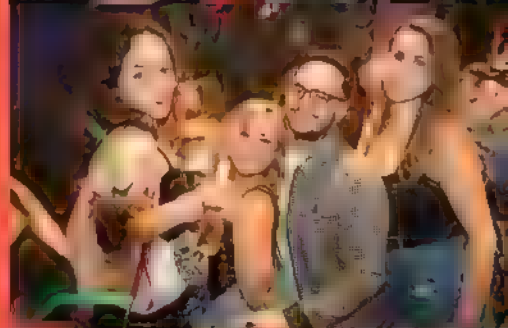
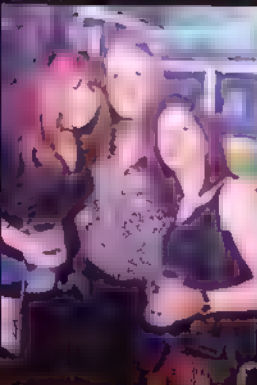
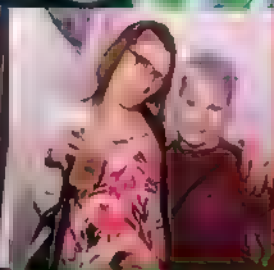


THE YARD

COVENTRY

The Yard celebrated Eurovision in style with a live screening party and a performance by BBC All Together Now's Veronica Green

To mark the return of Coventry Pride on Sat 8 & Sun 9 June, The Yard is hosting a mega line-up of performers, including Girls Aloud's Nadine Coyle, RuPaul's Drag Race star Charle Hides, Rozalla and Kelly Wilde! For the full line-up, check out the venue's advert on pages 28-29.



SCENE

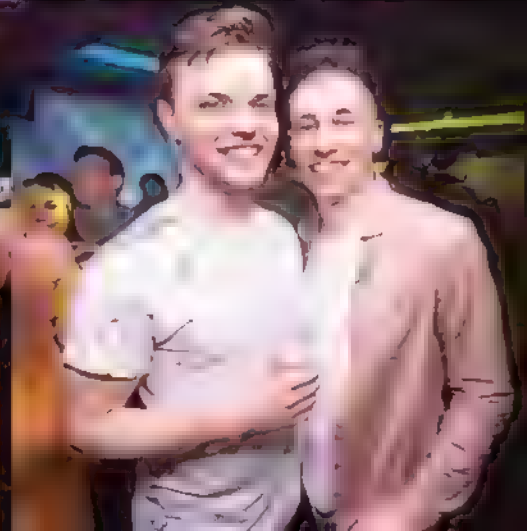
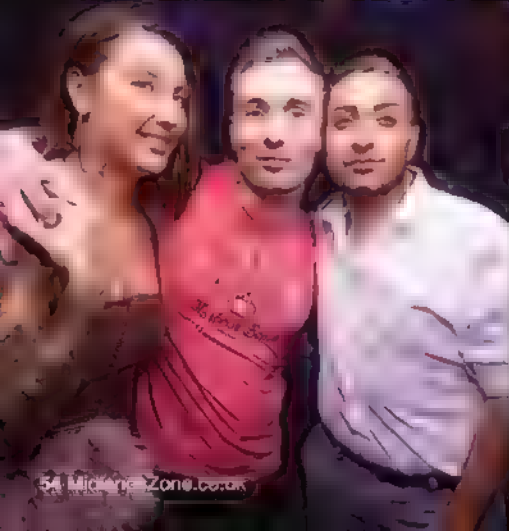


GORGEOUS WOLVERHAMPTON

Gorgeous is home to one of
Wolverhampton's busiest club nights.
Ego, taking place every Saturday
from 11pm till 6am.

With a mashup of commercial R&B,
chart-toppers, anthems and house & bass,
there's something for everyone.

Students can also get 20% off entry and
drinks with a valid student ID card.





gorgeous

THURSDAY 11-6AM | FRIDAY 8 | SATURDAY 11PM-6AM

2 BARS | VIP BOOTHS | VIP LOUNGE

KEEPING WOLVERHAMPTON OUT!

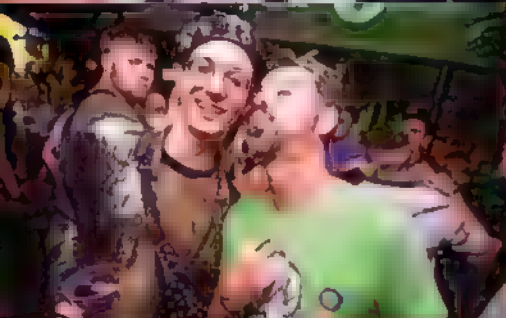
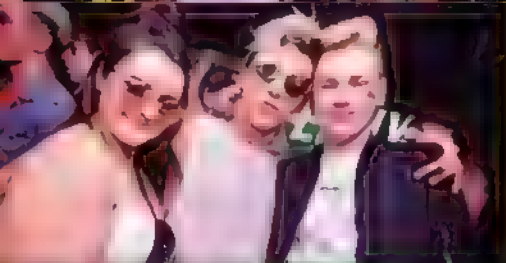
OFFICIALLY THE MIDLANDS BEST GAY NIGHTCLUB! (MIDLANDS ZONE AWARDS)

WWW.GORGEOUSCLUB.CO.UK

FACEBOOK: /GORGEOUSNIGHTCLUB | TWITTER: @GORGEOUSWTON

GORGEOUS, SCHOOL STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 4LF. 01902 771122

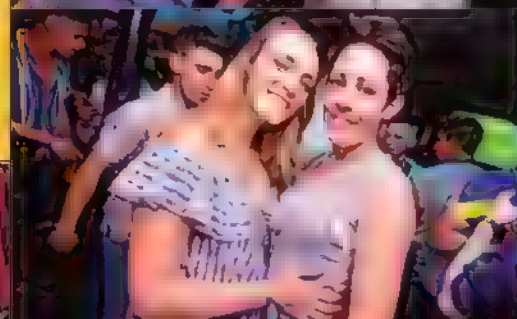
SCENE



VILLAGE INN

The Village Inn was bursting at the seams during last month's Birmingham Pride weekend!

June sees performances from Sum Ting Wong, Baga Chipz, The Vivienne and Sandra London (check dates opposite). Karaoke Wednesdays comes complete with brand new host Porkpie!



THE VILLAGE INN
BAGA CHIP?

THE VILLAGE INN
THE VILLAGE INN

FRI 7TH JUNE

FRI 28TH JUNE

MONDAYS

QUEENY'S BINGO
GUARANTEED
£120
WEEKLY
THE VILLAGE INN'S
L&R MONDAYS
£1 DRINKS
OPEN TO 4AM

TUESDAYS

GINNY
LEMON'S
PICK 'N' MIX
WEEKLY
CASH PRIZES
DJ BLANCHE

WEDNESDAYS

KARAOKE
WITH
NEW BOSS
PORKPIE

THURSDAYS

CABARET
WITH
MISS MARTY
& MISS PENNY
ALTERNATE
WEEKS

SUNDAYS

THE VILLAGE INN
YSHEE
LIP SYNC
COMPETITION
OPEN TO LATE
XOXO

VILLAGE INN BIRMINGHAM



@VILLAGEBIRMINGHAM



@THEVILLAGEBRUM



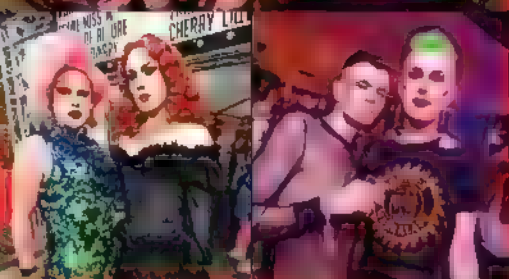
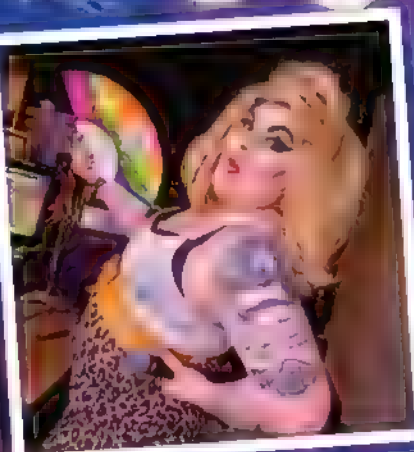
@VILLAGEBRUM

SCENE

THE PRIDE

Missing

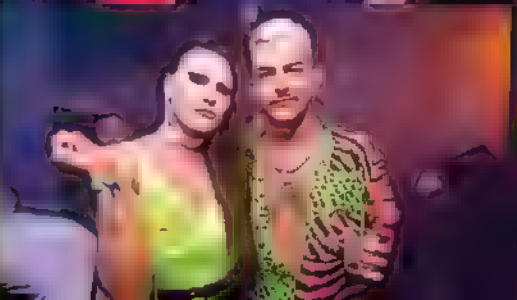
NON STOP CABARET 6PM-MIDNIGHT HOSTED BY GAVINA VAGINA MUSIC BY MIKE EMERY
 DIVINE MISS M TWIGGY AMY LAQUEEFA JENNA DA VINCI
 HOUSE OF BILLORE TRIxie LEE DONNA TRUMP CRYSTAL LUBRIKUNJ
 A TIF ORDINARY CHERRY LILLY DANIELLE RIVRES MARTHA D'ARTHUR



MISSING
 BIRMINGHAM

Life is a cabaret! Well, it certainly is at Birmingham's Missing Bar, which hosted non-stop cabaret from some of the country's best acts including Twiggy and Martha D'Arthur across the Birmingham Pride weekend.

This month sees the wonderful Stae O'Gay make her Birmingham debut at the venue on Sunday 16 June.



Missing

7 DAYS TO PLAY, 7 NIGHTS TO PARTY

MONDAYS

MINISTRY OF SOUND

HUGE SELECTION OF DRINKS
"More than they ever had at home"

Missing

TUESDAYS

KARAOKE

SING YOUR HEART OUT EVERY TUESDAY FROM 10PM
"THE ONLY KARAOKE BAR IN THE SOUTH COAST"

Missing

WEDNESDAYS

MISSISS MID-WEEK MADNESS

THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST
"THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST"

Missing

THURSDAYS

Thursday

THE FRANKLIN IN THE SOUTH COAST
"THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST"

Missing

FRIDAYS

HIT MAN & HER

THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST
"THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST"

Missing

SATURDAYS

House PARTY

THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST
"THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST"

Missing

SUNDAYS

CAMP AS TTS

THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST
"THE ONLY DANCE HALL IN THE SOUTH COAST"

Missing



CAMP AS TTS

SUNDAY 16TH JUNE
SHAE G DAY
SHOWTIME 10.30PM



SCENE



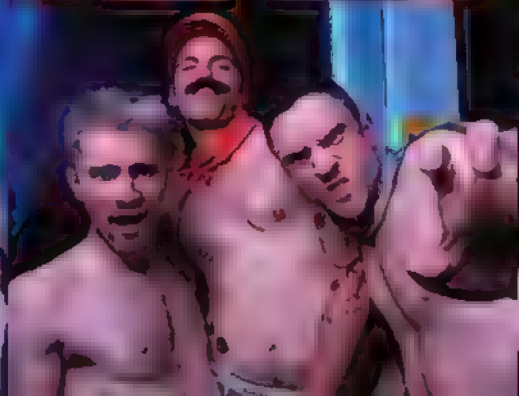
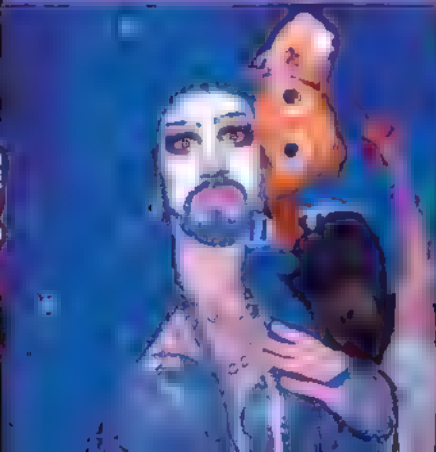
THE NIGHTINGALE

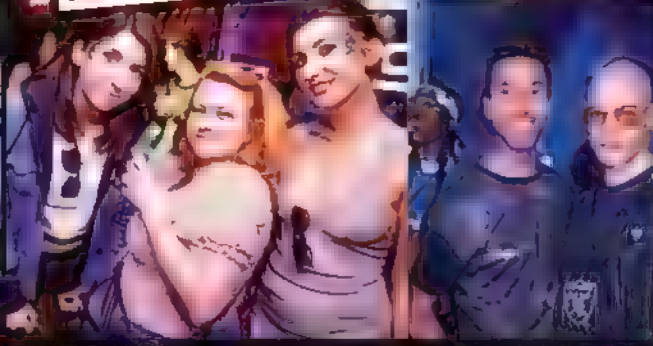
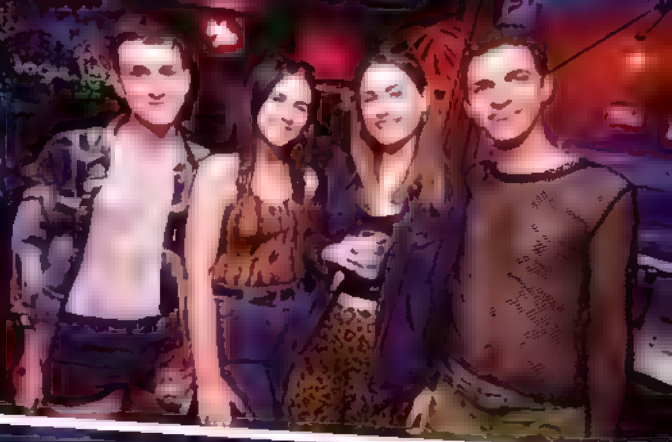
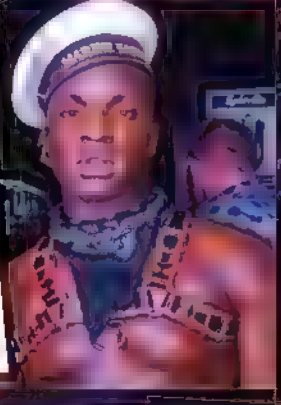
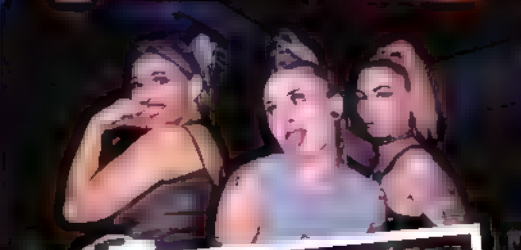
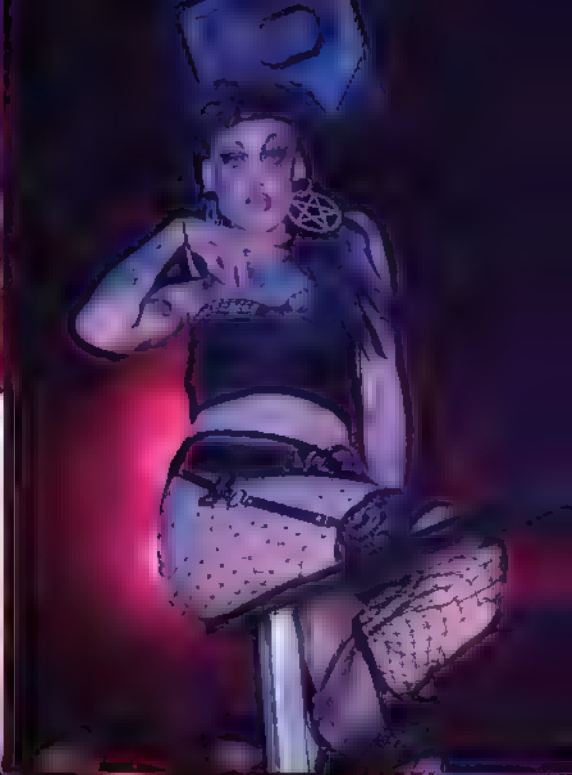
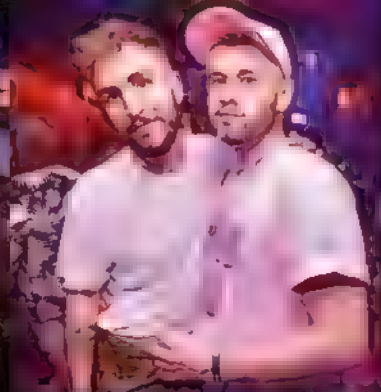
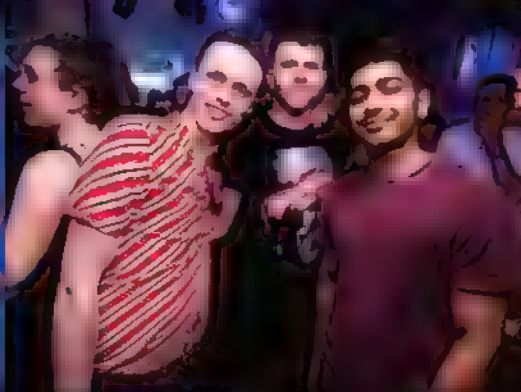
BIRMINGHAM

Given that it's Birmingham's biggest gay nightclub, it was no surprise to see the Nightingale packed to its rafters with party people across the Pride weekend.

The iconic venue this year celebrates its 50th anniversary with great drinks offers, free entry* and absolute anthems.

(*Check the back cover for more details)



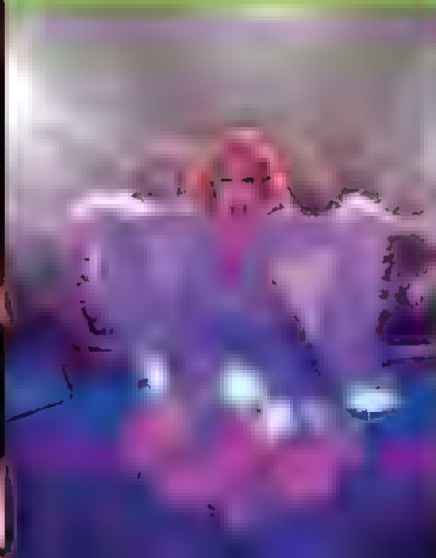
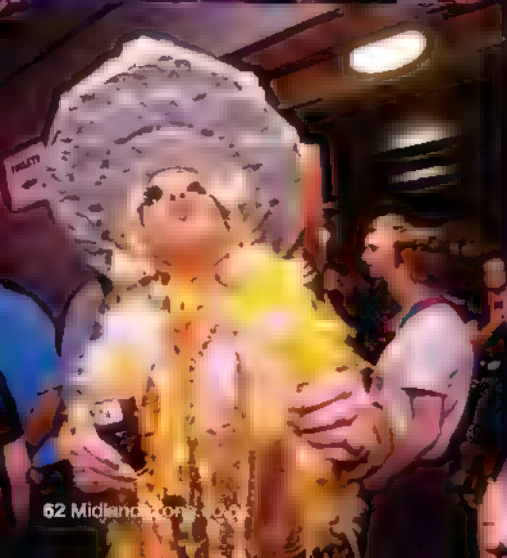





EDEN BAR

Wow! Eden Bar really brought the crowds in with their STEPStacular line-up over Pride Weekend - including the one and only Claire Richards, who performed STEPS hits One For Sorrow and Deeper Shade Of Blue, plus some of her own tracks.

This month the venue hosts the national semi-final of Drag Idol, complete with the ever-wonderful Danny Beard (see advert opposite)



QUIZZICAL!
The smartphone
QUIZ
WEDNESDAYS 8PM
WITH DJ YOGI 

KARAOKE & DISCO
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY
WITH DJ NIKKI

JUNE

SAT 8TH DANNY BEARD
NATIONAL SEMI-FINAL

THU 13TH DANNY BEARD

SAT 15TH BFM

SUN 16TH LEATHER SOCIAL

FRI 21ST MIDS BEARS

SAT 22ND PUP SOCIAL
SAT AFTERNOON

SAT 22ND MORRISSEY DISCO
IN THE MARQUEE

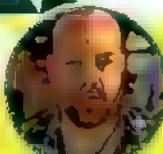
THU 27TH FELIX LE FREAK

SAT 29TH MARY MAC

SUN 30TH GAMEDEN
AFTERNOON BOARDGAMES

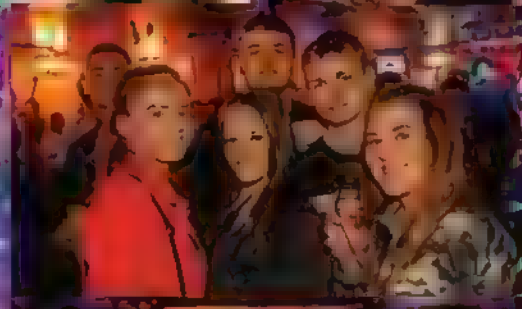
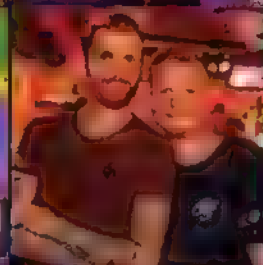
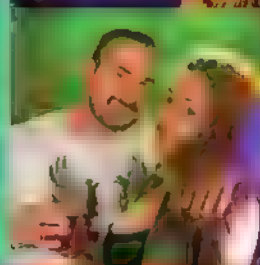
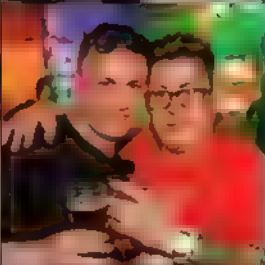
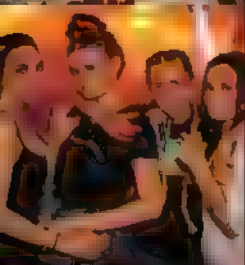
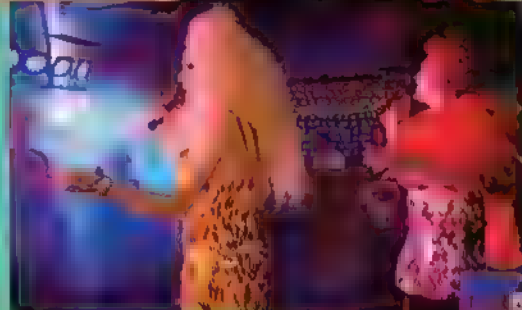
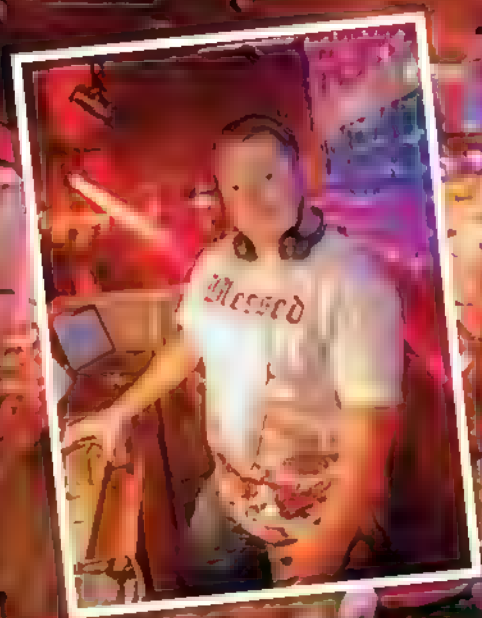


DJ TONI LEE
SAT 8TH SAT 22ND



DJ PONI
SAT 1ST, 15TH
29TH

SCENE



BAR DIVA!

+DUDLEY'S LGBT
CABARET VENUE



RUPAUL DRAG RACE AMBASSADOR
THE VIVIENNE

SHYANNE O'SHEA

LOLA LASAGNE

SANDRA

BONNIE LA BLUE

THURSDAY'S
FRIDAY'S
SATURDAY'S
SUNDAY'S
MONDAY'S

THIRSTY THURSDAYS
WITH MISS ANNIE & TRIXIE LEE

FREAKY FRIDAYS
WITH DJ MIKEY

CABARET SATURDAYS
TOP DRAGS & HOSTED BY MISS ANNIE

RING & RIDE WITH
FUN, GAMES AND PRIZES MISS MO BILITY
AND MARGARET

MANIC MONDAY BOGOF
KARAOKE WITH MISS ANNIE, HAPPY HOUR 9-1AM



BAR DIVA

Lower Plaza Mall King Street DY2 8NZ Dudley

ZONE AWARD WINNER



/BarDivaThePlaceToBe



THE LOFT BIRMINGHAM

With craft beers, contemporary cocktails, a locally sourced food menu, speciality gins and a fully heated garden in the heart of Birmingham, what's not to love about The Loft!



Part of

What's On
MEDIA GROUP

Offices:
Wynner House,
Bromsgrove St,
Birmingham B5 6RG
and
13-14 Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury, SY2 6AE

Get connected...



@midlandszone



@midlandszone

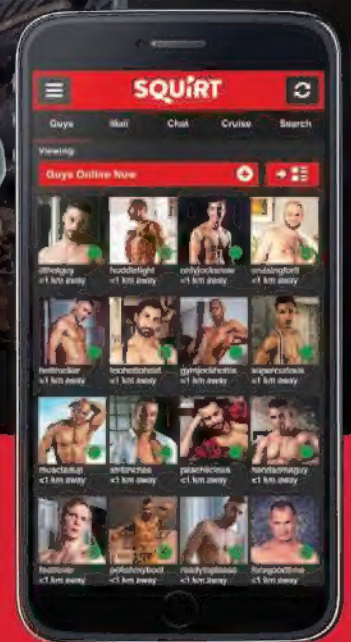
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher: **Martin Monahan** Editorial: **Brian O'Faolain** brian@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281701
Sales & Marketing: **Lei Woodhouse** lei@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281703 **Chris Horton** chris.horton@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281704
Managing Director: **Davina Evans** Subscriptions: **Adrian Parker** adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk 01743 281714
Graphic Designers: **Abi Whitehouse**, **Lisa Wassell**, **Chris Atherton** Accounts: **Julia Perry** julia@whatsonlive.co.uk 01743 281717
Contributors: **Steve Ball**, **Lacey Lou**, **Stephen Spinks**, **Ryan Humphreys**, **Rico Johnson-Sinclair**, **Laura Byrne**

This publication is printed on paper from a sustainable source and is produced without the use of elemental chlorine. We endorse the recycling of our magazine and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

All works appearing in this publication are copyright. It is to be assumed that the copyright for material rests with the magazine unless otherwise stated. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or stored in an electronic system, transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior knowledge and consent of the publishers.



Hookups = **SQUIRT** .org



Visit www.squirt.org
to hook up today



THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB

50

YEARS OF A

QUEER CON

THURSDAYS

£1 DRINKS

**2 FLOORS
OF MUSIC**

**FREE
ENTRY
TILL 11PM**

FRIDAYS

£2 DRINKS

**ABSOLUTE
ANTHEMS**

**FREE
ENTRY
TILL 11PM**

SATURDAYS

CHEAP DRINKS

**3 FLOORS
OF MUSIC**

**FREE
ENTRY
TILL 12AM**

XOXO